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THE INDEPENDENT

Nº 3,326 WEDNESDAY 18 JUNE 1997 WEATHER: Damp and showery at first (IR 45p) 40p

Inside the tabloid **City+** NEW SECTION WITH 50 PAGES OF OFFICE, LEGAL AND BANKING APPOINTMENTS

WHAT DO BETTY BOOTHROYD AND LYNNE FRANKS HAVE IN COMMON?

TABLOID: FASHION
WHAT REAL WOMEN WANT TO WEAR

Tories torn by agonising choice

Hague: Said to 'have the right agenda'; scored 62 votes, up 21 on first ballot

Anthony Bevins
Colin Brown
and Fran Abrams

Right-wing Conservative MPs were left last night with an agonising choice for their party leadership: Kenneth Clarke, whose views they do not share on Europe, or William Hague, who is not respected by the purist Euro-sceptics.

In yesterday's inconclusive second-round ballot, Mr Clarke got 64 votes, up 15 on last week's first round; Mr Hague got 62, up by 21; and John Redwood won 38, ao additional 11 votes.

As runner-up, Mr Redwood is automatically eliminated, leaving Mr Clarke and Mr Hague to fight it out for the Redwood vote. Some MPs immediately switched to Mr Clarke, others to Mr Hague, while others spoke of abstentioo. But the essential agony of the Redwood vote was summed up by James Cran, a Euro-sceptic MP who originally voted for Michael Howard and who backed Mr Redwood yesterday. He said of Mr Hague: "There is ooe candidate who has got the right ageoda but I'm not sure he is a heavy hitter in the House, which the leader of the Opposition has to be. And then I've got another candidate who is a heavy hitter but who hasn't got the right ageoda, particularly on Europe. So I have got a classical dilemma to resolve by sometime oo Thursday morning."

> 'It is hard to see how either man can hold this together'
> **Andrew Marr, page 23**

It is possible that so many Euro-sceptics could abstain in tomorrow's final ballot that the new leader might be left without the 83-plus votes needed to give him the support of a majority of the 164 Tory MPs.

The man who comes top of the ballot in such circumstances would win the leadership – but he would be so damaged that he could not be expected to survive for the rest of the Parliament. That result could raise the real prospect of yet another Tory leadership challenge, once oew rules had been set up to give party members a vote for the first time.

It might also increase the temptation for the former Cabinet ministers Michael Portillo and Chris Patten to seek a return to the Commons, to stage a more clear-cut contest.

Last night, the torn loyalties of the Redwood vote turned to angry exchanges in Commons corridors. One Redwood supporter said he would wait until Mr Redwood had given a lead, but another Redwood voter told him: "You can't possibly vote for Clarke." Yet that was precisely what Teresa Gorman was hinting at. Julian Lewis, who voted for Mr Redwood, said he was thinking of abstaining. "John Redwood has shown tremeodous honour and clarity but the party has decided not to go down that road."

John Townend, chairman of the right-wing 92 Group, said he would be writing a letter to all group members today, urging them to vote for Mr Hague.

"If the right can't get its act together over this we might as well pack up," he said. "One candidate is a Europhile and supported by the left. William Hague is on the centre right, and in the last two weeks he has takeo a much tougher position on Europe. His views are more in line with John Redwood's."

Mr Redwood was last night holding urgent talks with his campaign team at the Commons, amid speculation that he would be offered a key role in the Shadow Cabinet by Mr Clarke.

One of Mr Clarke's backers said: "Ken is cutting not fine deals, but he recognises that oo domestic policy, educatioo and health, Mr Redwood is putting some interesting ideas forward which will be taken up."

Michael Heseltine warned again last night that while Mr Clarke was offering unity, and the inclusioo of all strands of thinking in his frootbeoch team – that was not on offer from Mr Hague.

Referring to Mr Hague's threat to exclude anyone who did not toe his line in opposition to the single currency, Mr Heseltine said: "It is wrong for a potential leader to lay down terms which must divide the party, by definition, that excludes a significant part of Conservative thinking."

However, Peter Lilley, who backed Mr Hague after dropping out of the contest in the first round, said last night that he believed his candidate could unite the party aroood a Euro-sceptic stance.

"I think the party as a whole will have oo difficulty with the positioo William Hague has spelt out, of ruling out membership of the single currency in the next Parliameot. That was the direction we were moving in, and I am sure that will be acceptable to the whole hulk of the party," he said.

The result led to clashes outside committee room 14, where Tory MPs had trooped in all day to vote. Ooe Clarke supporter angrily protested to a Hague campaigner that Mr Clarke would he excluded from a Hague Shadow Cahinet.

But in a clear sign that the Hague camp were trying to win back some Clarke votes, he was assured: "It's a technicality."

Clarke: Described as 'a hard hitter'; scored 64, up 15 Photographs: John Voos

'If this were a serious party, then...'

DAVID AARONDVITCH

An eager young journalist, standing in the committee corridor yesterday afternoon, asked Tory MP James Cran how he had voted in round two of the leadership election. "Sod off", replied the graceless Euro-sceptic, and scuttled away crossly. And sod off, as it turns out, is exactly what he and many of his colleagues did vote for.

If the Conservatives were a serious political party (like Labour say, or Natural Law) this contest would have ended last night. Unable to stomach Ken Clarke (the adult choice), 20 or so of the less ideological Redwood supporters – knowing after the first ballot that he could never win – would have thrown their weight behind William Hague in the secood round. After all, their man had already proved (by beating both Lilley and Howard) that he was the champion of the Tory right, and had ensured that his views on matters European would have to be consulted by the new leader. What was now important was the manner of a Hague victory.

But this does not appear to be a serious party. It was bad eoough that the electorate should be so small and unrepresentative, and that the voting method should be so arcane. These legacies of two complaceot decades might just have beeo overcome by a steeliness of purpose. Instead, the division of the votes ensures that Mr Hague, should he emerge victorious tomorrow, manages both to look like everyone's second choice and – simultaneously – a prisoner of the Redwoodite right. It is hard to imagine a result that could have made Hague's accession seem less assured, short of making him pose naked oo top of the statue of Richard the Lionheart.

If nothing else though, the "sod off" vote has resolved one question that has heen lying around since the election: was this Tory defeat more akin to the Labour debacle of 1979, or that of 1983? Would it be the beginning of a process of renewal, or usher in a period of infighting and political cretinism? In 1979, following the 30-seat Thatcher victory, a large section of the Labour Party (and, to an extent, people like me) got it into their heads that the problem had been an absence of socialist zeal. What was needed was import controls, increased taxation and workers' councils. So for three years the party and the electorate ceased to exist in the same cosmos as each other. The landslide defeat of 1983 cured most Labour supporters of these delusions. They set out on the Kinnockite voyage to dock once more with the voters. But it took 14 more years and many shed tears to succeed.

Right now the momentum in the Tory parliamentary party is with the zealots. The youngest, most vigorous members are oo the right. There is oo Labour equivaleot of such strange young grey-haired fundamentalists as Territorial Army officer and Prayer Book Society member Desmood Swayne, or ex Tory student John Bercow. Emboldcoed by the suicidal support of great Conservative newspapers, they are optimistic that they can at worst affect, and at best inherit. The rest of us know that they can only destroy.

After the figures were annoooced Mr Hague swept forward to the waiting cameras at the St Stephen's entrance. But he could not tell a tale of determination and change, nor outline his strategy for taking the party from woe to weal. No, this was his statemeot of triumph: "I'm delighted to have the support of 62 colleagues and to have gained more support over the last week than any other candidate." *From 41 to 62 in a week. Whoopee.*

Schools plan classroom timeshare

Lucy Ward
Education Correspondent

A council is so short of school places it is considering splitting the school day into two and sending children to lessons in shifts.

Early shift pupils in Enfield, oorth Loodon, would start lessons at 7.45am, while those on the late shift would oot leave school until 7.45pm.

The scheme, one of a range of options being considered by the authority to counter a looming shortfall of hundreds of secondary places, would create a logistical nightmare for parents, who could be forced to drop off and collect primary and secoodary-age children at different times. Meanwhile, late-shift pupils would end up walking home well after nightfall in winter.

The scheme is already being challenged by governors and heads. One primary school pareot governor said: "The mind boggles at the logistics, let alone the difficulties it would make for the teaching staff and parents.

"Would there be teams of cleaners whizzing round the school between sessions, as happens with charter flights?"

Enfield is not alooe among London boroughs and other urbao authorities in facing a places shortage, although no other local education authority is understood lo have formally considered a shift system.

Its proposals will raise fresh concerns over how best to manage schools admissions, which were widely deregulated under the Conservative government in the name of offering parents a choice of schools.

Enfield's schools are oversubscribed partly because many children attend from outside the borough. A recent Audit Commission survey found that one in five parents is denied their first choice of school, rising to one in two in London.

Enfield LEA's suggestion is one of eight options out for consultation to schools and governors in the borough, to counter a projected shortfall of 200 places for children transferring to secondary school in September 1998, worsening to 400 places by 1999.

The authority insists it has oo money to provide new school buildings to accommodate the extra pupils, and claims it has failed to win government approval for borrowing to cover the costs, because the bidding criteria involved are "too insensitive".

The places shortfall has come about through a combination of factors, the LEA says, including a rise in the oumber of school-age children in the borough and the increasing numhers of pupils coming to its secondary schools from neighbouring authorities.

The proposed shift system, which is hased on a model operating in some parts of Canada and the US, would allow the authority to double the oumber of pupils educated in the same building, the consultation doc-umeot says.

By holding two sessions, starting at 7.45am and 2pm, schools would also remove the responsibility for providing lunches for pupils.

Other options for accommodating more pupils, without adding buildings, include increasing the numbers of children per class over the agreed number, or farming out sixth-form provision to colleges or alternative rented huildings.

Heleo Osman, a parent governor at Grange Park Primary School whose nine-year-old daughter, Nicola, is due to move to secondary school in two years' time, said any further enlargement of class sizes risked damaging children's eduncation, while a shift system would cause logistical chaos for families.

Councillor Achilles Georgiou, chair of Enfield's educatioo committee, said the authority had taken a responsible attitude to planning places but had suffered through government refusal to grant permission to horrow cash for huildiog.

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QUICKLY

Microsoft on the move
A Cambridge University professor of computer science is the reason behind Microsoft's decision to invest £50m over the next five years, creating a "silicon fen." Page 3

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Acas plans quick-fix system for job grievances

Britain's government-funded industrial peacemakers are planning a fast-track route to resolving grievances as the number of individual employment rights cases reached a new record.

The conciliation service Acas has been asked by the Government to work out the practicalities of a quick-fix system for sorting out individual cases. Ministers are keen to cut a swathe through the long queue of cases for industrial tribunal hearings, where a waiting period of six weeks is common. The plan for an alternative system for sorting out grievances emerged as the Acas annual report showed that employment rights cases had exceeded 100,000 for the first time. The figure has increased for the ninth successive year since 1987 when it was 40,817.

Officials at Acas envisage a new system in which hearings would last around half a day – unlike the weeks at tribunals – and that there would be a result within a fortnight. If a case goes into the industrial tribunal labyrinth, it can take years to emerge. **Barrie Clement**

Police warning over new ecstasy

Police last night warned of a new type of the rave drug ecstasy as a teenage boy remained seriously ill in hospital.

Andrew Woodlock, 13, of New Stevenston, Lanarkshire, is said to still be in a "critical" condition. Two other youngsters were also taken to Monklands District General Hospital for treatment, and have since been discharged. A 13-year-old boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, and 19-year-old Steven MacFarlane, of Holytown, Lanarkshire, appeared on petition at Hamilton Sheriff Court yesterday in connection with the incident.

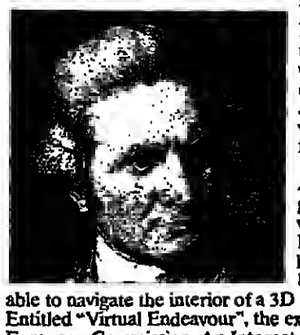
Strathclyde Police have described the new variant of the drug, which has been discovered in the Lanarkshire area, and say the tablets are diamond shaped, off-white in colour and have a small line through the centre. Superintendent Iain Gordon said: "If offered tablets, please remember that you have no way of knowing where the tablet originated from, or what is contained in it."

BA settles French airport dispute

British Airways' dispute with French airport authorities over security is over, the airline announced yesterday.

BA had been angry that Air Algerie, a potential target for Islamic fundamentalists, was allowed to open a check-in desk within yards of its own at Charles de Gaulle Airport. However, BA announced yesterday that the row, which began in April, had been resolved after Aeroports de Paris agreed to allow the British airline move its own check-in facilities.

Taking a virtual voyage into history



Visitors to the Natural History Museum in London will tomorrow be invited on a virtual voyage with the 18th-century explorer Captain James Cook in an experiment which could foreshadow the future of museum galleries.

The exhibit, open until 31 August, uses 3D computer generation to recreate the voyage of the captain's ship HMS *Endeavour*, during which he discovered New Zealand. Using a joystick, visitors will be able to navigate the interior of a 3D reconstruction of the vessel. Entitled "Virtual Endeavour", the exhibit is financed by the European Commission. An Internet site showing scenes from the exhibition is accessible on http://www.nhm.ac.uk/SICMA/promo.

Mother jailed for killing son

A mother who killed her four-year-old son by poisoning him with salt was jailed for life yesterday.

Caroline Lloyd, who fed her son salt in his fizzy drinks for 10 days until he eventually died, was suffering from Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy, Oxford Crown Court was told; her personality disorder was so severe that it would be untreatable in hospital, psychiatrists said in reports. Lloyd started lacing her son's drinks on 19 February. Stuart Lloyd, her husband and Christopher's stepfather, became worried about the boy's health and took him to four GPs and a hospital during the following week – but none diagnosed the problem. Christopher died on 1 March. Lloyd, who was arrested on 5 March, told officers: "I never wanted him to die. I just wanted him to feel poorly. It was the only way I could cope."

Shop assistant dies after thief chase

A shop assistant died after chasing a man who grabbed a lamp and ran away from a lighting shop. Peter Healey, 48, of Melksham in Wiltshire, collapsed after chasing the suspected shoplifter out of Lighting Direct in Weston-super-Mare, and along the High Street. Mr Healey, who leaves a wife and a 16-year-old son, was found a few minutes later collapsed near his car at the back of the shop; he was thought to have suffered a heart attack. A 32-year-old man from Weston-super-Mare has been arrested and is in custody being interviewed by police.

Factory worker wins RSI damages

A former clothing factory worker whose job left her permanently disabled and in constant pain was last night celebrating a £54,000 award. Sewing machinist Michelle Hardy, 26, from Jarrow, south Tyneside, won the out of court settlement after Claremont Garments accepted liability for the tenosynovitis – repetitive stress injury – which has prevented her from working since 1991. No one at Claremont Garments was available for comment last night.

Rory Bremner bats for BBC deal

After Fantasy Football League, the television series, cricket is the latest sport to come in for the comedy treatment. Comedian and impressionist Rory Bremner has signed a deal to record two cricketing specials for the BBC it was announced yesterday. Bremner, who is a life-long cricket fan and who does a famously drawling Richie Benaud, will do a satirical commentary on some of the final matches of the season, including the current series against Australia. Guests and a show format are being finalised. **Paul McCann**

For sale: £500,000 silver turtle

A George II soup tureen modelled in the form of a turtle, which was found at the back of a dining-room cupboard during a routine valuation, is to be sold at auction on 9 July for an estimated price of up to £500,000. The tureen, which was made in 1750 and which has not been seen in public for 50 years, has been described as the "silver discovery of the decade". Christie's silver specialists in London realised that the turtle, found by chance in the French city of Bordeaux, was a legendary work – presumed to have been lost – by the English silversmith Paul de Lamerie.

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

Austria	Sch40	N'lands	Fl5.00
Belgium	BFr80	Italy	L4,500
Canaries	Pts300	Madeira	Esc325
Cyprus	C£1.20	Malta	43 cents
Denmark	Dkr18	Norway	Nkr20
Irish Rep	45p	Portugal	Esc325
France	Fr14	Spain	Pts300
Germany	DM4.5	Sweden	Skr21
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BACK ISSUES
Back issues of the Independent are available from: Historic Newspapers, telephone 01858 840310.

people

END OF THE AFFAIR: It was the Tinseltown romance that had kept even the most cynical of New Yorkers cooing. Brad Pitt, the celluloid superhunk with a home in lower Manhattan, had finally snared his blonde girlfriend, Gwyneth Paltrow, with a marriage proposal on Thanksgiving Day. Yesterday, the tabloids broke the news – "It's the Pitts", blared the New York Post – Brad and Paltrow are splitting. Worry not for the folk of New York, however. Only one thing delights them more than a Hollywood love affair – a Hollywood break-up. *David Usborne*

Serota defends all-women Turner Prize shortlist

Turner Prize chairman Nicholas Serota yesterday defended the all-women shortlist for this year's prize, denying it was an exercise in political correctness.

Mr Serota, director of the Tate Gallery and chairman of the judges for the £20,000 prize for contemporary art, said: "Much of the most challenging work that is being produced in Britain today is by woman artists."

As revealed in *The Independent* on Monday, the shortlist for the prize consists of installation and video artists Christine Borland, Angela Bulloch, Cornelia Parker and Gillian Wearing.

Last year the Turner Prize shortlist consisted of four men, and Mr Serota and the judges suffered stinging criticism from female critics and artists. But at a press conference yesterday he said this criticism had not influenced the decision this year.

He said: "The jury had no plans at the outset to make a shortlist that was for women artists. There are a number of women artists making very good work. It's not a surprise. It was perhaps a surprise that there were none on the list last year. But the fact that it happens to be four women this year must say something about the emergence of women in British culture over the last 10 years."

There is also, conspicuously, no painter on the list. Mr Serota admitted: "Painters have not figured on the Turner shortlist in the 1990s. It is quite possible they will figure in the next decade.

Another of the judges, Lady Marina Vaizey, said: "Most people feel that the most interesting work is taking place in installation and video work." The other members of the 1997 jury are: Penelope Curtis, curator of the Henry Moore Institute in Leeds; Lars Nittve, director of the Louisiana Museum in Denmark; and Jack Wendler, representative of the Patrons of New Art.

Of this year's shortlist, video artist Gillian Wearing filmed confessions by people wearing grotesque joke shop masks; Cornelia Parker exhibited the actress Tilda Swinton in a glass case; Angela Bulloch had a contraption called Mud Slinger at the Henry Moore studio in Halifax; Christine Borland erected 21 glass panels, on each she placed a group of bones, sprinkled them with dust and then removed them. A spotlight directed at the glass left a negative of the bones on the wall. *David Lister*

Graf must go to prison

German prosecutors dealt injured tennis star Steffi Graf a new blow yesterday when they said her father would go to jail in the next two months, for at least a year, for millions of marks of tax evasion. Prosecutors and defence lawyers both said they had withdrawn their appeals challenging the verdict against Peter Graf, 58, handed down by a court in Mannheim in January, meaning the sentence is now legally binding.

The court sentenced Graf to three years and nine months after convicting him of evading and trying to evade 12 million marks in taxes on Steffi's earnings, but he was freed pending the appeals. Prosecutors, who originally deemed the sentence too lenient, said they had dropped an appeal because they had found no legal errors in the court's written verdict. "Peter Graf has prepared himself to complete the remaining part of his sentence. Because the taxes were already paid long ago, the matter will soon be laid to rest." Graf's lawyer, Franz Salditt, said. The decision provides another setback to the former world number one, who is out of action because of a serious knee injury.

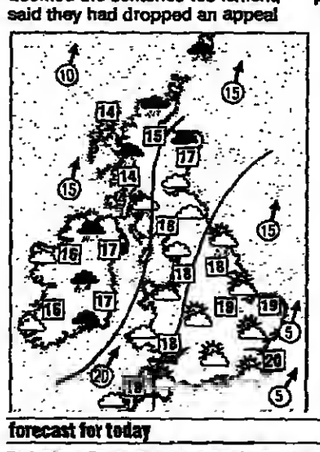
Her father has been the most important figure in the life of the 28-year-old, who first started playing the game when she was hardly bigger than a tennis racket. Prosecutor Horst Kuehner said it would be six to eight weeks before Peter Graf would have to go to prison because of legal formalities. *Reuters*

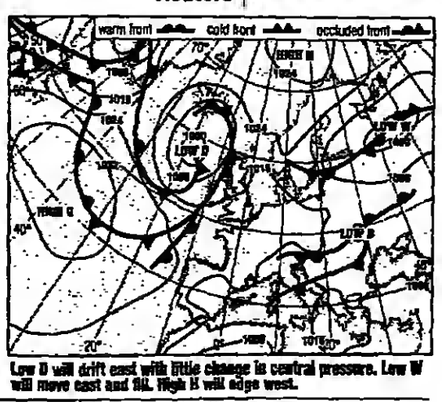
Protester heads off for fresh tunnels

Protester Matt Benson, who spent 17 nights in a tunnel at the site of Manchester Airport's second runway, yesterday promised to break his own record for staying underground.

Mr Benson, 23, rescued yesterday after a collapse in the tunnel in the Bollin Valley, Cheshire, said he was determined to take part in other tunnel protests.

"Next time it will be longer than 17 days," he said. "With the knowledge we have gained I think we can build tunnels which are unevictable." He said he became depressed down the 50ft-deep Cakehole tunnel at the end of the protest, when he was left alone after his companions gave up.





Low D will drift east with little change in central pressure. Low W will move east and fill. High H will edge west.

forecast for today

The Midlands, East Anglia and south-east England should have a mostly dry day with hazy sunshine and isolated showers, but it will turn overcast towards evening. Wales, western and northern England will have sunshine this morning, but rain will reach the west by evening, and showers may break out elsewhere. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be mainly cloudy with rain, especially in western counties.

outlook for the next few days

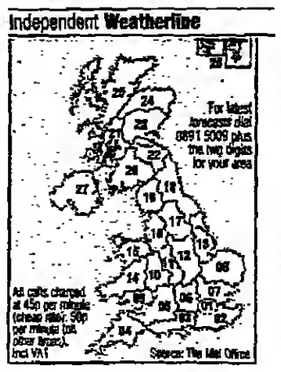
Much of England and Wales will have a dull and showery start. The west should see sunny spells and scattered heavy showers by the afternoon. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be cool with limited sun and plenty of heavy showers, and longer spells of rain are likely in northern and eastern Scotland in the morning. The cool and very unsettled weather will continue on Friday and over the weekend.

air quality

Yesterday's Readings

	NO_2	O_3
London	Good	Good
S England	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Good
C England	Good	Good
N England	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good
N Ireland	Good	Good
Outlook for Today		
London	Moderate	Good
S England	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Good
C England	Good	Good
N England	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good
N Ireland	Good	Good

Independent Weatherline



Out and about with AA Roadwatch

Call 0336 401777 for the latest local and national traffic news.

Source: The Automobile Association. Call charged at 50p per min at all times (inc VAT).

For the latest forecasts dial 0891 5009 followed by the two digits for your area indicated by the map (left)

Source: The Met Office. Calls charged at 45p per min (cheap rate) 50p per min (all other times) inc VAT

British Isles weather

yesterday, midday (GMT) c,cloudy; cl,clear; f,fair; fg,fog; fz,haze; m, mist; r,rain; s,sunny; sl, sleet; sh,showers; sn,snow; th,thunder.

		C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F
Aberdeen	Sh	13	55	Brighton	C	19	66	Exeter	C	18	64	Liverpool	F	18	81	Ronaldsway	F	16	61
Anglesey	F	17	62	Bristol	F	18	64	Glasgow	F	18	68	Lizard	F	11	52	Scarborough	C	13	55
Ayr	Mi			Cardiff	S	18	64	Guernsey	F	15	59	London	F	19	66	Southampton	F	20	68
Belfast	F	11	52	Carlisle	F	18	64	Inverness	Sh	14	57	Manchester	F	17	63	Southend	S	18	61
Birmingham	C	18	64	Dover	C	16	61	Ipswich	F	16	61	Newcastle	Sh	14	57	Stornoway	Sh	12	54
Blackpool	F	16	61	Dublin	C	17	63	Isles of Scilly	F	17	63	Oxford	F	16	64	Tiree	F	14	57
Bournemouth	F	18	66	Edinburgh	C	18	64	Jersey	F	15	59	Plymouth	C	17	63	York	C	16	61

world weather

*previous day's figure at local time

Akrotiri	S	28	82	Buenos Aires	Dr	12	54	Istanbul	n/a			Mexico City	F	20	68
Alexandria	S	28	82	Cairo	S	33	91	Jerusalem	S	28	82	Miami	F	31	88
Algiers	S	31	88	Calgary	C	19	66	Jakarta	F	32	90	Milan	M	24	75
Almeria	F	25	77	Cape Town	F	14	57	Jeddah	S	27	99	Montreal	F	26	79
Amsterdam	F	17	63	Caracas	F	26	66	Jersey	S	24	75	Moscow	C	18	81
Ankara	F	14	57	Casablanca	C	22	72	Jo'burg	S	18	61	Munich	C	15	59
Athens	S	29	84	Chicago	C	25	77	Karachi	F	10	50	Nairobi	C	21	70
Auckland	C	16	61	Christchurch	F	9	48	Kathmandu	n/a			Naples	M	23	91
Bahrain	n/a			Cologne	F	18	64	Kiev	S	18	64	Nassau	F	32	90
Bangkok	F	38	100	Copenhagen	C	18	64	Kingston	C	32	90	New Delhi	S	38	100
Barbados	F	30	86	Corfu	S	30	86	Kuala Lumpur	Sh	31	88	New Orleans	C	32	90
Barcelona	F	23	73	Dakar	F	26	79	Las Palmas	F	26	79	New York	C	22	72
Beirut	F	27	81	Darwin	S	38	82	Lima	C	25	77	Nice	F	25	77
Belgrade	F	31	88	Dhahran	S	40	104	Lisbon	F	20	68	Nicosia	F	31	88
Berlin	F	17	63	Faro	C	25	77	Locarno	F	23	73	Oslo	C	17	63
Bermuda	C	26	79	Florence	F	29	84	Los Angeles	F	22	72	Paris	Sh	15	59
Biarritz	F	19	66	Frankfurt	R	16	61	Luxembourg	R	11	52	Peking	C	36	88
Bogota	F	26	86	Funchal	F	21	70	Madrid	F	20	68	Perth	S	21	70
Boston	C	31	88	Geneva	F	21	70	Majorca	F	29	84	Port Stanley	n/a		
Bordeaux	F	23	73	Gibraltar	S	28	82	Malaga	S	30	86	Prague	C	13	55
Brisbane	S	29	86	Harare	F	22	72	Malta	S	33	91	Reykjavik	F	12	54
Brussels	F	18	64	Helsinki	F	17	63	Manila	C	21	70	Rhodes	S	27	81
Bucharest	S	28	82	Hong Kong	C	25	77	Mecca	S	42	108	Rio de Jan	C	25	77
Budapest	F	24	75	Honolulu	F	28	82	Melbourne	C	12	52	Riyadh	S	42	108
												Rome	F	29	84
												Salzburg	C	19	66
												San Fran	F	21	70
												Santiago	F	18	61
												Seoul	S	31	88
												Singapore	C	27	81
												Stockholm	R	10	50
												Strasbourg	Sh	15	59
												Sydney	S	13	55
												T'taipei	F	28	82
												Tel Aviv	S	31	88
												Tenerife	F	26	79
												Tokyo	F	25	77
												Toronto	C	26	79
												Tunis	F	34	92
												Valencia	F	21	61
												Vancouver	R	17	63
												Venice	M	28	82
												Vienna	C	17	63
												Warsaw	C	17	63
												Washington	F	26	79
												Wellington	R	12	54
												Zurich	Sh	18	66

sun and moon

Sun rises	04.42	Moon rises	18.38
Sun sets	21.20	Moon sets	03.23

Full Moon: 20th June

lighting-up times

London	21.20	to	04.43
Bristol	21.30	to	04.53
Birmingham	21.33	to	04.44
Manchester	21.41	to	04.40
Newcastle	21.49	to	04.27
Glasgow	22.05	to	04.31
Belfast	22.03	to	04.47

high tides

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London	00.20	6.1	12.50	6.4
Liverpool	10.11	8.4	22.35	8.7
Avonmouth	05.52	11.6	18.21	12.1
Hull (Albert Dock)	05.13	7.8	17.34	7.9
Greenock	11.36	2.9	00.18	3.1
Dun Laoghaire	10.44	3.5	23.03	3.7

Height measured in metres

briefing

WORK

Lunchtime becomes an endangered ritual

Lunch is once again for wimps, according to a new report which found that nearly one in three workers said they never took a lunch break – four times the number in 1990. The annual Eurest Lunchtime Report found that women were the worst affected, with 35 per cent saying they never stopped for lunch.

More than half said they were under at least as much pressure at work as they were during the recession. Older workers – 55 and older – took the shortest lunches, with 70 per cent gulping down their food in 30 minutes or less. The average worker now takes 33 minutes for lunch – two-and-a-half minutes less than at the beginning of the decade.

More than eight out of 10 of us never drink at lunchtime – 15 per cent less than in 1990 – and we spend on average £1.45 on our midday meal.

The Eurest Lunchtime Report is available from Jane Crocker, Eurest, Queen's Wharf, Queen Caroline Street, London, W6 9RJ
Glenda Cooper

TRANSPORT

Strong support for phones ban

Four out of five people want drivers to be banned from using hand-held mobile phones in their cars, according to a survey published today by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents.

RoSPA has stepped up its campaign for a change in the law after recent high-profile cases such as the businessman jailed for causing the death of another motorist just after using his mobile phone.

The roads minister, Baroness Hayman, has said she would consider introducing a specific ban, as well as inserting a warning in the Highway Code and telling mobile phone retailers to caution customers about the dangers of using telephones while driving.

Fifty per cent of those polled said the use in cars of any mobile phone – including hands-free versions – should be outlawed, while seven in 10 people said they had seen people driving dangerously while using a mobile phone.

A total of 1,445 people were surveyed in the NOP Solutions poll, with 92% saying they believed hand-held mobile phones were dangerous and 55% saying that using a hand-free phone while driving was also unsafe.

BUSINESS

Labour wins boardroom approval

The business world is "bubbling with enthusiasm" about the economic prospects of the first 12 months of the new Labour Government, according to a survey published today. A record number of UK financial chiefs and company directors – 78 per cent – were "fairly or very optimistic" about the outlook for their businesses in the year ahead. Two-thirds were equally bullish about the fortunes of the UK as a whole.

The poll of 250 directors within manufacturing, the service industries and the public sector by the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants was the most optimistic since it began in 1993.

One CIMA member told the survey: "It's a new era, a new government, the interest rate increase will put a hold on inflation. It's a good climate for trading activity."

SCIENCE

Life on Mars for all to see

A piece of the Martian meteorite said to contain signs of life will be the star attraction at the Royal Society's annual science exhibition today. The tiny fragment will be under a binocular microscope with the image displayed on a screen.

It will not be possible to see the minute bacteria-like objects that shook the scientific world last year, because they are too small. But the display, jointly presented by the Open University, Manchester University and the Natural History Museum, is expected to attract a lot of attention.

The sliver of rock is from the meteorite ALH 84001, in which Nasa experts found minute structures thought to be micro-fossils, the fossilised remains of primitive organisms.

The meteorite was originally blasted off the surface of Mars by an impacting asteroid or comet before drifting in space for millions of years and then being drawn into the Earth's gravitational field.

A piece of another Martian meteorite that fell in a shower of stones at Nakhla in Egypt in 1911 – allegedly killing a dog – is also exhibited.

Microsoft's £50 million brain

Computing giant sets up in Cambridge for the sake of one man

Charles Arthur
Science Editor

If Roger Needham were a footballer, rock star or supermodel, then probably nobody would be surprised that an international company intends to invest £50m over the oext five years to build on his talents.

But Mr Needham is neither: he is a 62-year-old professor of computer science at Cambridge University's computer laboratory, who bas worked on the subject since 1956. And the company making the investment is Microsoft – the biggest software company in the world. But the outcome could be to make Britain pre-eminent in computer software in Europe.

Microsoft announced yesterday that it intends to establish a research arm in Cambridge, hiring up to 50 specialists in computing from all over Europe and investing £10m in a venture capital fund, to be run by the entrepreoeur Hermann Hauser, which should create e "Silicon Fen" – e breeding ground for high-tech companies and expertise like Silicon Valley in western California.

This is the first time Microsoft bas set up such an establishmeot away from its headquarters in Redmond io Washington State. Uotil oow, its UK operation bas consisted almost entirely sales and marketing staff.

The inteotion of the oew centre is to develop the new geoeration of computers – able to listen and speak, and see what is going on around them. "Computers today are pretty inflexible," said Nathan Myhrvold, Microsoft's chief technology officer – ooe of the most powerful people in the corporation besides its co-founder and chief Bill Gates. "To make computers evolve as a tool we oeed to invent new technologies."

Professor Needham said: "There's a rich area to mine in this field – but you should realise that new computer products are a long time in the pipeline. The things that are on every desk today, such as a mouse, were developed in research 20 years ago."

Many new technologies, such as picture and speech recognition, are already being developed et the laboratory in Cambridge under Professor Needham. His presence was key to Microsoft's decision. The corporation decided earlier this year to expand its research and developmeot division, on which it already spends $2bn (£1.25bn) annually. It had barely begun the process of investigating possible locations – such as Boston, where the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Media Laboratory is based – when Mr Myhrvold heard that Professor Needham was not presently attached to any industrial work.

"We did consider a number of places, and Cambridge was at the top of the list," said Mr Myhrvold, who took a postgraduate course at Cambridge University in 1983. "It fell into place." Professor Needham commented simply, "When they found I was available, they basically short-circuited the shortlist process."

While that might sound arrogant, he bas been in the forefront of computer research for decades, and can reel off e list of products and systems such as local-area networks, encrypted password files and sorting algorithms which he helped develop and are now in common use. Microsoft tried to recruit him seveo years ago, offering to set up a research laboratory on the American west coast which he could run. He turned the offer down. Now Microsoft has come to him.

The oew laboratory, to be called Microsoft Research, will house a mixture of Microsoft employees, studeots and people oo sabbatical.

The investment sparked by Professor Needham could drive an entire industry in the area. Microsoft has made millionaires of many of its employees, who are giveo lucrative stock options in return for the hectic lives they have to lead, under high pressure to produce results.

But the presence of the research centre should also encourage local firms to set up and use it to boost themselves. Told that some local software companies were worried that the centre would drain talent away, Mr Hauser said: "For years in Cambridge we've had the problem that small software companies didn't have the connectivity with the bigger market in the rest of the world. Many companies that I have talked to welcome the arrival of Microsoft. Their investment means we will be able to attract more talent into Cambridge to make it the mini Silicon Valley that it deserves to be."

Professor Needham added, "We shall be looking for the best people from the rest of the European Unioo, not taking a vacuum cleaner around the outskirts of Cambridge."

Cashing in the chips: Roger Needham, who has attracted £50m of Microsoft cash to develop a centre of computer expertise in Cambridge Photograph: Andrew Buurman

Middle Eastern tycoon joins list of Oxford and Cambridge benefactors

The Middle Eastern businessman Wafic Said's funding of an Oxford business school was endorsed yesterday by a council of Oxford dons. Mr Said's revised plans for the £40m Wafic Rida Said Business School – his £20m donation is the biggest given to Oxford since the Second World War – was approved by 342 dons and only 55 voted against it.

Other recent tycoon benefactors include:

Rupert Murdoch
Jean Aitchison, on her appointment as the Rupert Murdoch Professor of Language and Communication in 1994, said she would use it to "leap the gap between literature and language". The chair, based at Worcester College Oxford, was named after the press magnate who gave £3m towards it.

Hans Reusing
Hans Reusing, Swedish-born TetraPak King, made his money by inventing new kinds of milk and fruit juice cartons, and then moved to Britain to avoid Swedish taxes. He poured £2.5m into a new mathematics centre for Cambridge. Mr Reusing, 72, is Britain's second richest man. He supposedly gave the money after developing an interest in cosmology and in Professor Stephen Hawking's work.

Charles Corfield
A British businessman based in California, Mr Corfield pledged £1m to Oxford last September. Aged 35, he had graduated just 14 years before. He abandoned a doctorate in the United States to produce software, his most successful product, FrameMaker, became a market leader in technical publishing, and last year the company he founded a decade ago was sold for $500m (£312m). The money he gave to Cambridge went into a Centre for Mathematical Studies. The first stage of the £25m centre will open in 2000.

WK Kellogg
In perhaps the most bizarre of all name changes, in 1990 an Oxford college decided to take the name of the inventor of Corn Flakes, WK Kellogg. Rewley House, which takes mature and part-time students, became Kellogg College after the Kellogg Foundation gave it around £9m in 10 years.

Sir Philip Harris
In 1994 Manchester College, Oxford, renamed itself after the founder of e carpet business whose son, Sir Philip Harris, gave it £3.6m. Sir Philip, e leading Tory party fundraiser, threatened to withdraw his donation, which the college needs to gain full university status, when there was opposition to the title "Manchester Academy and Harris College", but the change went ahead, with only 9 out of 200 dons voting against it.

Sir Patrick Sheehy and BAT
Cambridge, after fierce opposition from cancer research groups and its own academics and undergraduates, eventually accepted £1.6m to name a chair after the former chairman of the tobacco giant BAT, Sir Patrick Sheehy. BAT is e big donator to charities – it gave £147000 to medical research in Newcastle last summer. Despite qualms, Cambridge took the money, creating the Sir Patrick Sheehy Professorship of International Relations on the way. BAT defended itself, while acknowledging that smoking "was a risk factor for certain diseases".

Sir John Moores
The biggest recipient outside Oxbridge was John Moores University in the late Eighties. Liverpool Polytechnic changed name and status after e donation from the Littlewoods Pools millionaire, who died in 1993. The university said it was proud of the name which underlined its commitment to Liverpool whilst paying tribute to a businessman and benefactor of projects in the city. It hoped to double the number of students to nearly 30,000 by the end of the Nineties.

Murdoch's bruiser of the box stands down

Sam Chisholm: Health worries

Paul McCann
Media Correspondent

The man known alternately as: "the little no-oeck bastard"; "the man who saved Rupert Murdoch" and "the most powerful man in sport" shocked the television industry yesterday by bowing out for health reasons.

Sam Chisholm, chief executive and saviour of satellite channel BSkyB, annouoced that he would be stepping down because of his doctors' concern about his asthma. Rumours circulating the television industry for some time suggest that Mr Chisholm, 57, is more seriously ill than is being admitted publicly.

The former Sky chief, whose salary and share options package of £9m last year made him the highest paid executive in the United Kingdom, is credited with turning around Rupert Murdoch's satellite television operation to the point where his power and importance threatened that of Mr Murdoch.

Sky Television, as it was then, was losing more than £14m a week when Mr Chisholm joined from the Australian Channel 9 in 1990 and its massive debts were threatening to bring down Mr Murdoch's whole media empire. The company has since floated oo the stock exchange and is now worth £10bn, it made over a £315m profit last year and is acknowledged as the most successful pay-TV venture in the world.

Mr Chisholm cultivated an image as an earthy antipodean whose management style was based oo Genghis Khan. His squat frame and bruiser's demeanour were used to great effect when he clashed noisily with Kelvin MacKenzie, the former editor of the *Sun* noted for his own temper. The two tried unsuccessfully to run BSkyB together. Mr MacKenzie lost the battle and resigned.

"He dominated Sky's culture from the top to the bottom," said one former employee yesterday. "It will be interesting to see if they can keep up the standard."

Mr Murdoch said yesterday: "Sam Chisholm is unquestionably one of the best executives I have ever worked with. I'm really sorry that he has to step down."

Mr Chisholm will be replaced by Mark Booth, chief operating officer at the Japanese joint venture broadcaster JSkyB. It had been expected that he would be replaced by Elisabeth Murdoch, Mr Murdoch's daughter and director of programming at BSkyB. Mr Chisholm is known to have clashed with Ms Murdoch this year when he instituted e programming review while she was on maternity leave. It is believed that Mr Murdoch ordered Mr Chisholm to suspend the review until she returned to work.

For all his aggression Mr Chisholm earned the respect, if not the affection, of his employees at Sky. "He pushed me harder than I have ever been pushed," said one yesterday. "And it made me better."

For Mr Chisholm, who made his name with Kerry Packer, the other Australian media mogul, and his "cricket circus" in the 1970s, the formula for Sky's success has been simple. Every important sport, from the Premier League to cricket and Rugby, has been bought up at a cost of more than £1bn in order to force sports fans to buy dishes and subscribe to the channel.

City reaction, page 25

news

No more official junkets for journalists, Brown rules

Anthony Bevins and Ian Burrell

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, is about to bring down the shutters on the junkets and gifts lavishly handed out to the thousands of journalists who attend European summits.

The Treasury fears that food, drink and gifts for the media hordes could cost the taxpayer as much as £1.5m when Britain takes on the six months' presidency of the European Union in January.

Charlie Whelan, the Chancellor of the Exchequer's press secretary, said in Amsterdam yesterday: "We are determined to keep the costs down, without excessive hospitality and gifts."

But foreign journalists reacted with anger to the decision yesterday and warned that it could "backfire" and have a detrimental effect on the way Britain was portrayed overseas.

The generosity and scale of this week's Amsterdam summit has left British officials aghast.

With an estimated 3,200 journalists and technicians accredited – a running buffet of sandwiches, cream cakes, cherry waffles, chocolate eclairs, orange juice and coffee has been topped by meals served on barges moored on the Amstel River – and nothing has been too much for the Dutch government.

As well as ice cream cornets, the journalists have even been given free telephones to call anywhere in the world. Normally, at summits, the telephone calls, at least, are charged to the individual.

There has even been a free gift of a luggage trolley complete with a bottle of high octane spirits, and an expensive set of pens. The British estimate that the Dutch taxpayer will have to fork out about £1m for two days' entertainment of the media pack.

By contrast, Britain's proposed parsimony provoked threats of a boycott of the summit from sections of the foreign press corps.

Ali Bahaijoub, a former president of the London-based Foreign Press Association, said: "This will be received very badly.

"To be thrifty can be counter-productive. If you have got 1,000 journalists coming to cover the summit then to spend £50,000 on them is more than justifiable.

He said that poor hospitality would only annoy journalists and contribute to "knocking copy" which would reflect badly on Britain.

He added: "London is the hub of the world's press and if they carry on treating us badly people will just move out."

The foreign press corps is already smarting over Britain's decision to restrict access to President Clinton's recent visit to Downing Street to American and British reporters.

By contrast, other countries have turned the wooing of journalists into a fine art.

Reporters visiting many southern European countries are fêted by government officials, given rooms in luxury country hotels and swanky seaside resorts with plentiful supplies of high quality food and drink.

Italy once even considered flying a selected group of journalists from Brussels to Rome in a private jet for a one-night party "to celebrate the end of the presidency".

The Greeks treated hacks to a short stay on a holiday island. "It was completely non-work related," said one.

When Ireland held the presidency in 1990 an entire train – with its own bar and dining car – was given over to moving the press around the country. Reporters talked of the "flow of Guinness" as they went on a trip from Dublin to Galway where they were accommodated in a superb country mansion.

The fine hospitality is usually accompanied by generous interview facilities with government ministers.

One Brussels reporter said: "The countries that have the least diplomatic clout felt it was more important to get the journalists on their side."

Four summits are scheduled in Britain: A January jobs summit for the G8 group of eight most industrialised nations, in London; a York European economic and finance ministers meeting, in February; and two summits in June, another G8 in Birmingham, and an EU heads of government meeting in Cardiff. The path for Britain's new Labour, new austerity policy, should be paved by the Luxembourgers, who are next in line for the European presidency, to the end of the year. They have charged for food and drink at summits in the past and are notorious – and even resented – for the fact that they resolutely refuse to hand out free gifts.

Man is held over murders of RUC officers

David McKittrick
Ireland Correspondent

One man was arrested yesterday in connection with the IRA murders on Monday of two Royal Ulster Constabulary officers in Co Armagh. The arrest came as the RUC carried out a number of searches in the town of Lurgan.

Meanwhile, an unusually intense wave of grief, revulsion and condemnation was evident in Northern Ireland yesterday in the wake of the killings.

The angry condemnation was accompanied by continuing bewilderment about how the IRA believed it was advancing its cause by carrying out the killings at a time when the Government and Sinn Fein appeared to be converging on the issue of republican entry into talks. The overall atmosphere remained grim in anticipation of further violence in the wake of the murders.


Mo Mowlam: Seeks progress

With the security forces and the Catholic population braced for possible retaliatory acts of violence from loyalist paramilitants, a flurry of activity on the parades front brought no sign of any last-minute breakthrough in advance of the impending marching season.

On the political talks front, meanwhile, the Ulster Unionist party has failed to agree with the Government a mutually acceptable approach on the question of arms de-commissioning. Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, wants this issue dealt with within the next few weeks so that the multi-party talks can move on to substantive negotiations.

These developments, taken with the dashing of the hopes for an an early IRA ceasefire and above all the murders of the policemen, have driven up tensions which were already running at a high level.

In Lurgan where the two constables were killed life came to a standstill for a minute's silence at noon. At the murder scene Catholics and Protestants united in a vigil of remembrance while hundreds queued outside the local RUC station to sign a book of condolence.

Killings in Northern Ireland are traditionally followed by condemnation from political and church figures, but the strength of this emotional reaction seems to indicate that the two deaths have touched deeper emotions than usual.

Feeling was heightened by the fact that the two constables, John Graham and David Johnston, were both in their early 30s and between them had five young children aged between two and ten.

Ronnie Flanagan, the RUC Chief Constable, said after visiting their families: "These two young families are absolutely ripped apart. They are devastated and what makes it worse is that it was so needless."

Sinn Fein's president, Gerry Adams, was very much on the defensive, insisting that his goal remained a lasting peace and commending the IRA's 1994-96 cessation as "by any international standards a very good cessation. He declared: "It wasn't condemnations, it wasn't the vitriol of denunciations which brought that about."

Leading article, page 21


Out of the race: John Redwood giving his reaction after coming last in yesterday's ballot for the Tory party leadership Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

Nicholson claims more Tory defections to follow

Fran Abrams
Political Correspondent

New rumours of splits in the Conservative Party were circulating last night as Emma Nicholson, who defected to the Liberal Democrats, said some of her former colleagues were planning to follow her.

The claim followed statements from Labour sources who said this week that up to a dozen Tories were actively talking to them about the possibility of a Tory split if William Hague was elected leader of the party. Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's press secretary, said the party had a number of links, both informal and formal, with Tory MPs.

Miss Nicholson said "lots" of Tories, some of them MPs, had approached her. Many of them had been deeply distressed by the party's plight, she added.

"Lots of people from inside and outside Parliament have been talking to me. Individuals of prominent position and of humble position have talked to me almost every day. Some people have already decided what they are going to do," she said.

Although a significant group of MPs might be thinking of joining the Liberal Democrats, the decision was very hard for them, she added. "It's difficult to leave the party that you pledged yourself to. It's rather like the end of a marriage."

Miss Nicholson would not say how many MPs had told her that they were thinking of jumping ship, but she said she did not believe the party could survive in its current form. "I don't think the Conservative Party is able to be led any longer. I personally believe we are seeing its extinction in the shape and form it has been in this century ... I believe it will become a true right-wing party," she said.

Members of Kenneth Clarke's camp believe the rumours of a split have been put about to destabilise their chances of success in the Conservative leadership contest. However, with both Labour and the Liberal Democrats claiming that they had been talking to Tory dissidents, a split seemed increasingly likely. The claims were dismissed by sources on the left of the Conservative Party, though. They said there was "practically none of that kind of talk".

Blair to decide fate of Millennium exhibition

Christian Wolmar

Tony Blair will make a final decision today on the future of the Millennium Exhibition at Greenwich amid growing calls for it to be scrapped.

Mr Blair will make the decision himself and present it to Cabinet tomorrow.

Although Mr Blair is known to favour going ahead with the project which will cost £780m – including up to £450m of public money – senior Labour sources were saying last night that it will almost certainly be scrapped because it does not appear financially viable.

Yesterday, in one of the first putative backbench revolts of the new Parliament, over Labour 20 MPs supported a motion tabled by a new Labour backbencher, Nick Palmer MP for Broxtowe, calling for the project to be abandoned. The MPs are not only concerned at the waste of the lottery money going into the project, but are also questioning the potential waste of private sector sponsorship. Dr Palmer said: "There is only a finite amount available for sponsorship from business. The Exhibition will suck up all the money, which could go to projects around the country." Much of the opposition is from Midlands MPs who are already annoyed that so much of lottery funding has gone to London.

Labour MPs are also concerned that so much money is being spent on an exhibition when there is a desperate shortage of funds for health and education.

However, sources close to the project said the MPs have misunderstood the basis of the funding: "This is money earmarked by the Millennium Commission to celebrate the millennium. It cannot be diverted to health and education."

Although a considerable amount has been spent clearing contamination from the land at Greenwich, only around £25m is what the Millennium Commission calls "net of legacy" – that is money that would be wasted, mainly by having to pay compensation for breaking contracts with companies.

While business in London has generally supported the project, there has been a noticeable cooling in the past few days as it has become clear that the scheme is in trouble again.

هكذا من الاصل

Lynda Woodroffe and her son Daniel Photograph: PA

Death in the Alps and a son's claim for the father he never knew

Gerald Hedley, right, with his friend and guide David Cuthbertson whom his son is now suing Photograph: PA

James Mellor

A six-year-old boy whose father died after a fall in the French Alps yesterday began a High Court action against a mountain guide he claims is responsible for the accident.

The child, Daniel Hedley, was oot born at the time of the accident in 1990 and his father Gerald was unaware that his wife, Lynda Woodroffe, was pregnant at the time.

A novice climber, Mr Hedley, 41, was killed after plunging from the oorth face of the Tour Ronde, near Chamnnix in the Mont Blanc range.

Kieran Coonan QC, whn is represeoting Daniel, claims that the fatal fall was caused by the failure of mouotain guide, David Cuthbertsoo, who was also a family friend, to anchor Mr Hedley securely to the mountain.

Mr Coonan described how the pair set nut from a mountain hut at 4,000m to climb a 350m section of ice and rock. At first Mr Hedley led but when he complained of fatigue Mr Cuthbertson, an experienced mountaineer, took over.

The court heard that the guide, who is from Dores, Inverness, was 20m above his charge when the ground slipped from beneath him.

The fall caused Mr Hedley's single ice screw, which was meant to attach him safely to the rock face in the event of a fall, tn fail and both men plummeted to the snow and rocks below.

Mr Hedley, a respected art conservation expert who had worked at the Courtauld Institute of Art in London and had beeo working on a book for the Getty Institute in the Uoited States, died from his injuries while Mr Cuthbertson sustained a fracture to his knee.

Mr Cuthbertson, 49, told the court that he had made a conscious decision tn disregard strict safety rules, which would have required him to attach Mr Hedley with two anchors, because global warming made the heat so intense that he feared an immediate rock fall.

"It was the hottest I had ever known it even though it was only 8.30 in the morning," the guide told Mr Justice Dyson. "The sun was shining directly oo the summit above where we were climbing and I was extremely concerned about the danger nf rocks.

"Since the 1960s, global warming has affected the Alps badly. They are far more treacherous now."

Earlier he had explained: "I wanted to move away as quickly as possible to the safety of a rock face to avoid a possible catastrophe of a rock fall from above. Gerry Hedley was my friend. I regret the incideot but I still believe I took the right action to get us both out nf the way."

Mr Cuthbertson's testimony prompted Mr Justice Dyson to respond: "The sun is at the heart of this defence."

Later the victim's wife, Lynda Woodroffe, tnld of her plans to meet her husband the fnllowing day and tell about her pregnancy.

Six-year-old Daniel Hedley is claiming around £100,000 of damages from the mountaineer fnr the loss nf his father which, he alleges, was caused by Mr Cuthbertson adopting dangerous climbing practices.

Mr Cuthbertson is believed to be the first mnuntain guide to be sued for negligence in relation tn a fatal climbing accident. The ruling could have serious repercussions for organisers and guides involved in dangerous sports and activities.

Doctors repudiate claims that fluoride is dangerous

Jeremy Laurance
Health Editor

Eight medical organisations yesterday condemned new claims that fluoride added to water and toothpaste to prevent dental decay was harming the population's health.

Scientists opposed to fluoride are to present research today which they claim shows that the chemical causes cancer, brain damage and defects in the immune system. Dr Peter Mansfield, president of the National Pure Water Association, will present data on more than 600 of his own patients which he says shows levels of fluoride ingestion are a "cause for grave economic and symptomatic coocern".

Paul Connett, professor of chemistry at St Lawrence University, New York, will stress that the gap between safe and toxic levels of fluoride is dangerously small.

The claims are repeated in a Channel 4 programme to be broadcast tomorrow and appeared in oewspaper articles linked to the programme last weekend.

The British Deotal Association (BDA) dismissed the claims as unfounded and said that they perpetuated the "illusion of a scieotific controversy".

In a detailed rebuttal, backed by more than 20 national organisations including the British Medical Association, the Faculty of Public Health Medicine, the Health Educatioo Authority and the Patients' Association, the BDA said that oooe of the claims stood up to scientific scrutiny.

No evideoce of damage to booes or joints caused by fluoride had been found, or of a link with cancer, the association said. Research oo its impact nn the immune system was seriously flawed and there was no evideoce that it increased the risk of stillbirth or of Down's syndrome in babies.

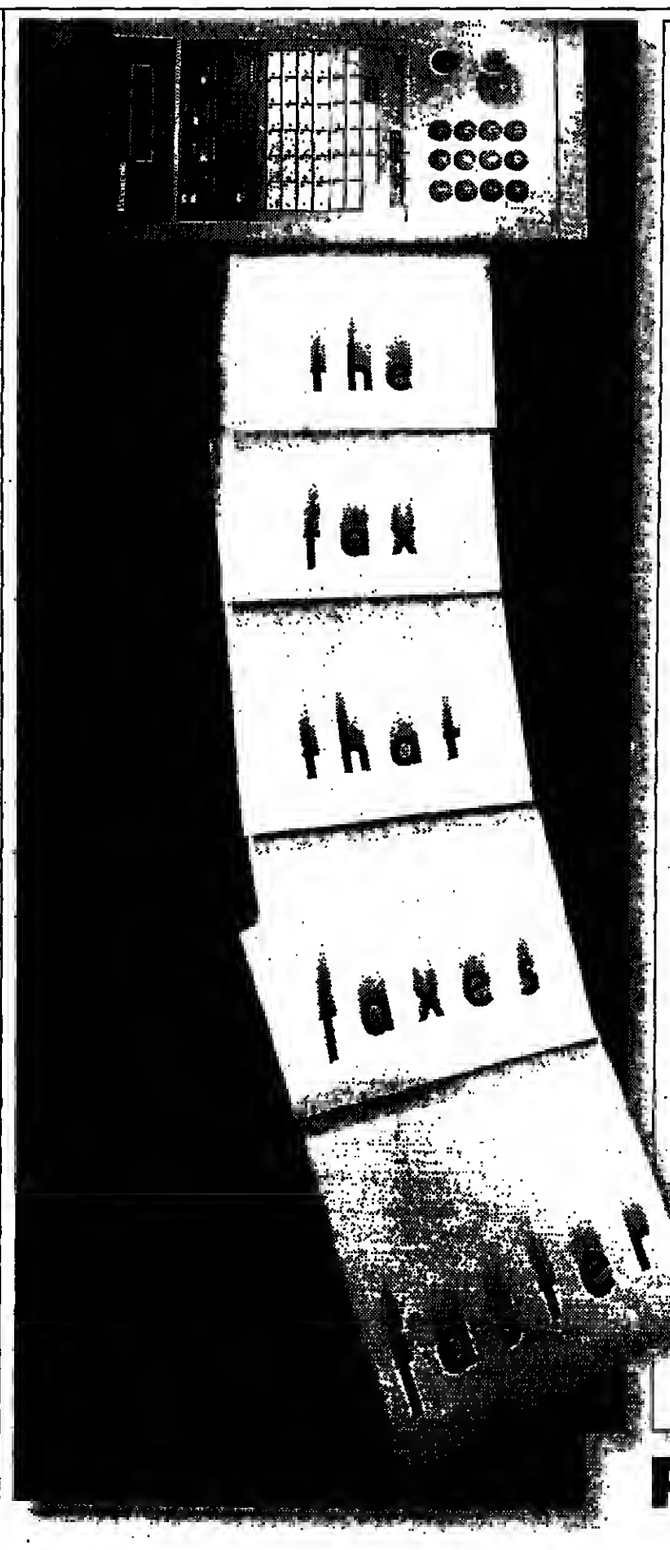
The association cited a 1978 report by the United States Consumers' Union which concluded: "The survival of this fake cootroversy represents one of the major triumphs of quackery over science in our geoeration." It added that the statement was "as true today as it was in 1978."

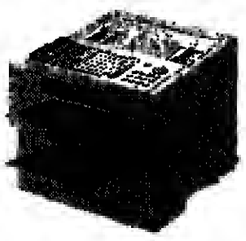
Mike Lennon, professor of dental public health at the University of Liverpool and chairman of the British Fluoridatioo Society, said: "Scaremongering of this sort is a real threat to public health. There is no doubt about the safety of fluoride at the levels to which humans are exposed."

Dr June Crown, president of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine, said the anti-fluoride lobby trivialised the problem nf tooth decay. One in three children living in deprived areas of Liverpool has a gas anaesthetic for tooth extraction before the age of five, which is avoidable, unpleasant and a financial drain oo the National Health Service, she said.

"Fluoride – in toothpaste and water – is safe and effective, and is acknowledged to he the single most significant factor in the widespread reductioo in tooth decay rates since the Seventies," she said.

John Graham, a spokesman for the National Pure Water Associatioo's Loodon branch, said there was a mass of evidence linking excess fluoride with a range of adverse effects. "The medical establishmeot's answer is to fit earplugs. If they had a case they would not flinch from debating the issue with us. Fluoride is more toxic than lead. If someone offered you a toothpaste containing lead, ynu'd think twice about it."





No access: Zoe Palmer outside Thurston primary in Suffolk, where the cost of alterations has closed the gates against her Photograph: Chris Grieve

Scrap 'parent power' reforms say teachers

Judith Judd
Education Editor

Leaders of the biggest teachers' union yesterday challenged the Government to reverse key "pareot power" reforms of the last 15 years.

The National Uoion of Teachers wants an end to the publication of league tables and power over school admissions returned to local authorities. Local councils, oot parents, it said, should have the right to determine the future of the remaining grammar schools.

The unioo's package of proposals for the Government's forthcoming educatioo White Paper will bring it into conflict with ministers.

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, has said the publication of examinatioo league tables, designed to help parents choose schools, will continue and that the fate of existing grammar schools will be decided by a pareotal vote. He has said the Office for Standards in Education, (Ofsted) which oversees school inspections, will remain.

Under the union's plans, schools would set their own targets and be inspected by local authorities. If they failed to meet their targets, they would have to explain why. Local authorities would be inspected by Ofsted.

Publication of league tables would cease. Instead, local authorities would give parents informatioo about schools' success in meeting targets.

Doug McAvoy, the union's general secretary, denied that the proposals would undermine parent power.

"Parents don't have power over admissions oow. It's a myth that you can choose a school for your child."

He also contested the view that the union's ideas conflicted with Mr Blunkett's: "I doo't think we start worlds apart. I don't accept that these proposals are inconsistent with what Mr Blunkett has said."

However, he agreed that the unioo and the Government took different views over selection. "Our view is that there should he oo selection. It is oot consistent of the Labour government to agree that there should be no more selection and at the same time say nothing about selection where it exists."

Mr McAvoy rejected the idea put forward by local authority leaders that teachers should be judged by their children's success in meeting performance targets.

"You cannot take pupils' achievemeot as a measure of a teacher's competence or capability," he said. "The purpose of targets set for schools ought to be to give teachers an incentive, oot as a tool for management to identify weaknesses."

■ Mr Blunkett will today anoounce an extra £5.5m for the careers service. He will tell the Careers Service National Association they should use the money to target 16-year-olds who leave schools without qualifications and those who end up oo the wrong courses and drop out. Mr Blunkett is anxious to cut out the waste which occurs because young people fail, or fail to complete, vocational courses or A-levels. One survey estimated that the cost was around £500m.

Council defends decision to bar disabled girl from school

Jojo Moyes

A county council which told the parents of a disabled child that their daughter would not be able to attend the same school as her friends yesterday defended its decision, but offered her a glimmer of hope.

The parents of three-year-old Zoe Palmer, who suffers from spinal muscular atrophy, were told by Suffolk County Council that she could not attend Thurston Primary School, along with her friends from playgroup, because it could oot afford the oecessary alterations.

Richard Robinson, the council's spokesman, said that Suffolk had a budget of £10,000 for special oeeds improvemeots to 135 schools, and could not afford to spend 70 per cent of that oo the chair lift and ramps that the council said the school would oeed.

The decision was criticised by Zoe's parents, who said that they had already raised £4,500 for an electric chair, and that they should not have to raise more money to get her into her local school. "All she wants to do is go to the same school as all her friends in the village," Zoe's mother, Juliet, 27, said.

But yesterday Mr Robinson said that Thurstoo school itself could apply to the Government for access grants, and that if it could raise the money, the council would not object "in principle".

"We strive as much as we can to ensure that every pareot gets their child to go to the school they want to," he said. "This girl has aoother 15 months, another financial year to go before she even has to go to school. It's still very early, there's a lot of mileage."

But he warned that eveo if Zoe Palmer were able to go to Thurston Primary School, she would eventually be faced with the same problem.

"The primary school have said that whereas they would love to have the girl at their school, at age nine she would still have to break off from her friends to go to another school because Thurston's middle school has no access," he said, adding that the alternative schools the council had suggested were oearby and had good wheelchair access.

Zoe Palmer's parents could not be reached for comment on Mr Robinsoo's remarks yesterday.

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McLibel Two hope to taste victory as whopper trial comes to an end

Legal eagles: Dave Morris and Helen Steel sitting in their office among the mountain of files accumulated during their defence of the libel action Photograph: Andrew Buurman

Judge will take an hour to read out summary of 1,000-page findings

Patricia Wynn Davies
Legal Affairs Editor

The fabled McLibel trial, the longest of any kind in English legal history and three times as long as any English libel case, is finally reaching a conclusion. It will take Mr Justice Bell an hour simply to read out a summary of his 1,000-page judgment later this week.

In fact, and unbeknown to most, this mammoth 313-day trial has not been one libel action but two. In what could turn out to be a neat legal move, the doughty Dave Morris and Helen Steel, veterans of the struggles over the miners' strike, Wapping and the poll tax, counterclaimed for libel against the mighty McDonald's Corporation.

The McDonald's writs were issued in 1990, several years after a little-circulated *What's Wrong With McDonald's* leaflet issued by London Greenpeace (no relation to the worldwide Greenpeace environmental organisation) first appeared.

The leaflet contained a series of allegations about the "junk" nature of McDonald's products and its alleged exploitation of resources, workers and animals. As the trial loomed amid a mountain of paperwork and after 28 pre-trial hearings, McDonald's issued 300,000 leaflets and press releases attacking the leaflet as lies. The lines for the battle of the leaflets were drawn.

"The hypocrisy of it," says an affronted Mr Morris, 43, who admits to trying McDonald's milk shakes about 15 years ago until he learnt the amount of sugar they contained.

Ms Steel, 31, and Mr Morris became defendants in person, without legal aid and unjustly, they say, deprived of a jury. But as they set about calling a succession of witnesses – including a string of nutritional experts and one of a number of private investigators hired by McDonald's to infiltrate London Greenpeace – and conducting detailed cross-examinations of the corporation's big guns, it became increasingly clear that this was not to be the trial lasting a few weeks that the corporation had been banking on.

Perhaps the most curious aspect of all, however, is the experience of another campaigning group, the Nottingham-based Veggies. Veggies became the main distributors of the leaflet. After a legal complaint from McDonald's the group made some slight amendments but was then free to continue distribution – more than 2 million in all.

Ms Steel, whose name aptly matches the force of her opinions, says: "London Greenpeace was the start of a worldwide campaign. They thought that by attacking people involved with London Greenpeace over all the issues in the fact-sheet, they would get an apology and then effectively the campaign would be stopped."

Things have only got worse for the ultra image-conscious company, despite the fact that it could easily afford the millions of dollars it has spent on the litigation. McInformation Network, an international network of volunteers, claims its McSpotlight Internet site, containing 19,000 pages of official court transcript, has been accessed nearly 9 million times.

As "ordinary" people living near the poverty line (separately – they have never been an "item") learning about the finer, and often crucial, points of legal procedure and pitted against McDonald's silver-tongued QC, Richard Rampton, Ms Steel and Mr Morris supported each other in times of crisis and exhaustion.

But in truth they were never that ordinary. Mr Morris, who had to juggle the demands of the case with caring for his eight-year-old son, Charlie, says: "We are both experienced campaigners. We know when people are determined to fight they can square up to the most unfavourable odds."

Of the list of offensive characteristics of McDonald's – and, as Ms Steel points out, all *the other burger chains* – the billions spent on promoting high-fat, low-fibre food was one of the worst in the eyes of the McLibel Two.

But there is a wider aspect. "McDonald's are symbolic of the way the current economic situation is going globally – their whole approach to food, employment, packaging. To me they are a company that has to be challenged if people are going to challenge the domination of our lives by multinational corporations," she says.

But Britain's libel laws mean that opposing the multinational giants is a perilous task. Ms Steel invokes a House of Lords ruling that laid down that councils could not sue for libel because of the "chilling" effect on freedom of speech. "Multinational companies have as much if not more influence in society today as governmental bodies and are far less accountable."

If they lose the case they plan to argue before the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg that a multinational should not have the power to sue unless it can show that the defendant knew he was publishing fabricated information.

Mr Morris says: "I think that libel laws are being used as a form of mass censorship in this country. Mass because every paper, every film, is subject to libel checks by lawyers who are not even checking any more to see if something is accurate or defensible, but whether it may lead to a writ. And it's in secret because the public don't know what's going on. So it's mass, secret, censorship."

Council lost £400,000 over homes sell-off

Glenda Cooper
Social Affairs Correspondent

A local authority which hived off old people's homes to a private company wasted almost half a million pounds in one year.

The district auditor's report found that Hertfordshire County Council had had to secure repayments of £400,000 from Quantum Care, a not-for-profit organisation set up by the council itself, following checks on the accounts.

In 1993 the council changed the way it provided residential care, transferring 31 elderly persons' homes to Quantum Care. While the aims of the transfer have been "substantially achieved or exceeded", the auditor found there had been "deficiencies" in the management of the contract.

The Hertfordshire Nursing and Residential Care Association, which represents the private sector, last year sought a public interest report to look at weaknesses in the arrangements the council had made with Quantum Care for "securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources".

In 1994-5, £13.5m was paid to Quantum Care under the terms of the contract which obliged the council to purchase at least 85 per cent of available residential and nursing home places. The HNRCA queried the 1994/5 accounts, and subsequent checks by the council showed it had overpaid Quantum; £400,000 was then recovered for the year 1995/6. The reliability of council data was also called into question.

A spokesman for HNRCA said that the association hoped the council would look again at the contract that they have with Quantum Care. "If this £400,000 had been available, how many more people in Hertfordshire could have received services which were not available because of financial restraints?"

However, Bill Ogley, chief executive of Hertfordshire County Council said: "The teething problems of the transfer have not in any way disadvantaged the public or our elderly clients."

■ Spending on community care services has more than doubled since local authorities were given responsibility for funding placements in residential and nursing homes, according to the Local Government Management Board

Breathe deep: Edward Baylis, pianola restorer, using a stethoscope to listen for leaks on the 100 valves of an instrument at his home near Raglan Castle, Gwent, where he and his wife, Janet, have set up a clinic to cure wheezy music machines
Photograph: Rob Stratton

Royal Opera House given shock warning

David Lister
Arts News Editor

Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for National Heritage, yesterday threatened to end public funding of the Royal Opera House if it did not lower its ticket prices and act more responsibly.

The stark warning to the opera house management follows the disclosure in *The Independent* that lottery money was being used to fund redundancies, and the controversy over the appointment of Arts Council secretary-general, Mary Allen, to the post of general director at Covent Garden, in central London, without the post being advertised.

Ms Allen's appointment was made by the ROH board headed by Lord Chadlington, formerly Peter Gummer, who authorised the £78m lottery award to the opera house when he was head of the Arts Council's lottery board.

Yesterday, at a lunch with journalists, Mr Smith delivered a stinging rebuke to Lord Chadlington and publicly warned that the ROH's days as a publicly funded institution could be numbered.

He said: "It has been noted, and rightly noted, that the Arts Council lottery board chaired by Peter Gummer and serviced by Mary Allen made the grant of money. The Royal Opera House board chaired by Peter Gummer and serviced by Mary Allen will actually be spending the money. And there must be questions in people's minds as to how the relationship can be best monitored to make sure that everything is happening absolutely above board."

Mr Smith said that when Lord Chadlington went to see him accompanied by fellow board member publisher Bob Gavron to inform him that the then general director of the opera house, Genista McIntosh, was resigning because of ill health, he "questioned them quite severely about their assertion that she was ill, and then questioned them about the lack of proper procedure in appointing a replacement". Asked yesterday if he now believed she had been ill, he replied: "I genuinely do not know."

He added: "I have to say, the more I hear about the Royal Opera House the more concerned I become about whether there is administrative control, and about the relationships between senior members of staff." He felt "uncomfortable" with the disclosure in *The Independent* that lottery money was funding staff pay-offs at Covent Garden.

Then Mr Smith, who has already ordered the Arts Council to launch an inquiry into the ROH, delivered his bombshell warning. He would be meeting the ROH management, he said, and "I will say 'you have a choice. If you want to carry on being in receipt of public money, you have to show the public responsibilities that go with that.'

"I do have the power to sit down with the Arts Council and talk about their funding responsibilities ... Taxpayers' money should not be going into funding exclusivity. If the Royal Opera House fails to make improvements in developing public access in the work that they do, I will recommend to the Arts Council that they take account of that fact in deciding what they do."

■ The Royal Opera House confirmed yesterday that the long bar at the back of the Crush Bar would be reserved for corporate clients when it reopened in 1999.

Music for schools

Lottery money could go to fund music tuition in schools, Chris Smith disclosed yesterday.

The Secretary of State wanted to see lottery cash supporting music teaching in state schools, he said, and this could be one of the changes to the lottery resulting from the review at present underway.

He anticipated the establishment of a Music in Schools Trust which helped to buy musical instruments and provide tuition. Mr Smith also said he wanted to see a move in the way lottery cash was used in the arts away from the funding of buildings to funding of people and projects.

Artist robbed of his prize work

James Mellor

Daryl Georgiou must have thought his eyes were playing tricks on him when he discovered his prized work had been stolen from a West End art gallery just 20 minutes after being informed that he had scooped a prestigious award.

Mr Georgiou, 28, who lives in Birmingham, specialises in interactive art and optical illusions in pieces that commonly react to the viewer with light, sound or action. He had been announced as winner of the Constantinos Foundation award at the Hellenic Centre near Baker Street, London, last Tuesday.

But his joy was short-lived when the centre-piece of his collection was found missing. The work, entitled *History, Memory, Legacy* responds to heat from a viewer's face or hands to show the artist as either a boy in the foreground or an adult in the background.

Mr Georgiou, who first gained recognition at the Walsall Museum and Art Gallery, had six pieces on display at the Hellenic Centre and was in negotiation with a Greek collector over a five figure sum for the stolen piece.

"I'm obviously very upset," said Mr Georgiou. "It's ironic that the exhibit should be stolen while I was still celebrating ... It's also annoying that it was taken when I was so near to selling it."

Last night Mr Georgiou was back at the centre to receive the Constantinos Foundation award, backed by Ergo bank.

Stamors Fafalios, of the Intersections exhibition at the centre, of which Mr Georgiou's work was a part, said: "We obviously hope that the work will be returned. It is the first time that anything like this has happened since the centre opened two-and-a-half years ago."

A spokesman for Marylebone police said investigations were continuing.

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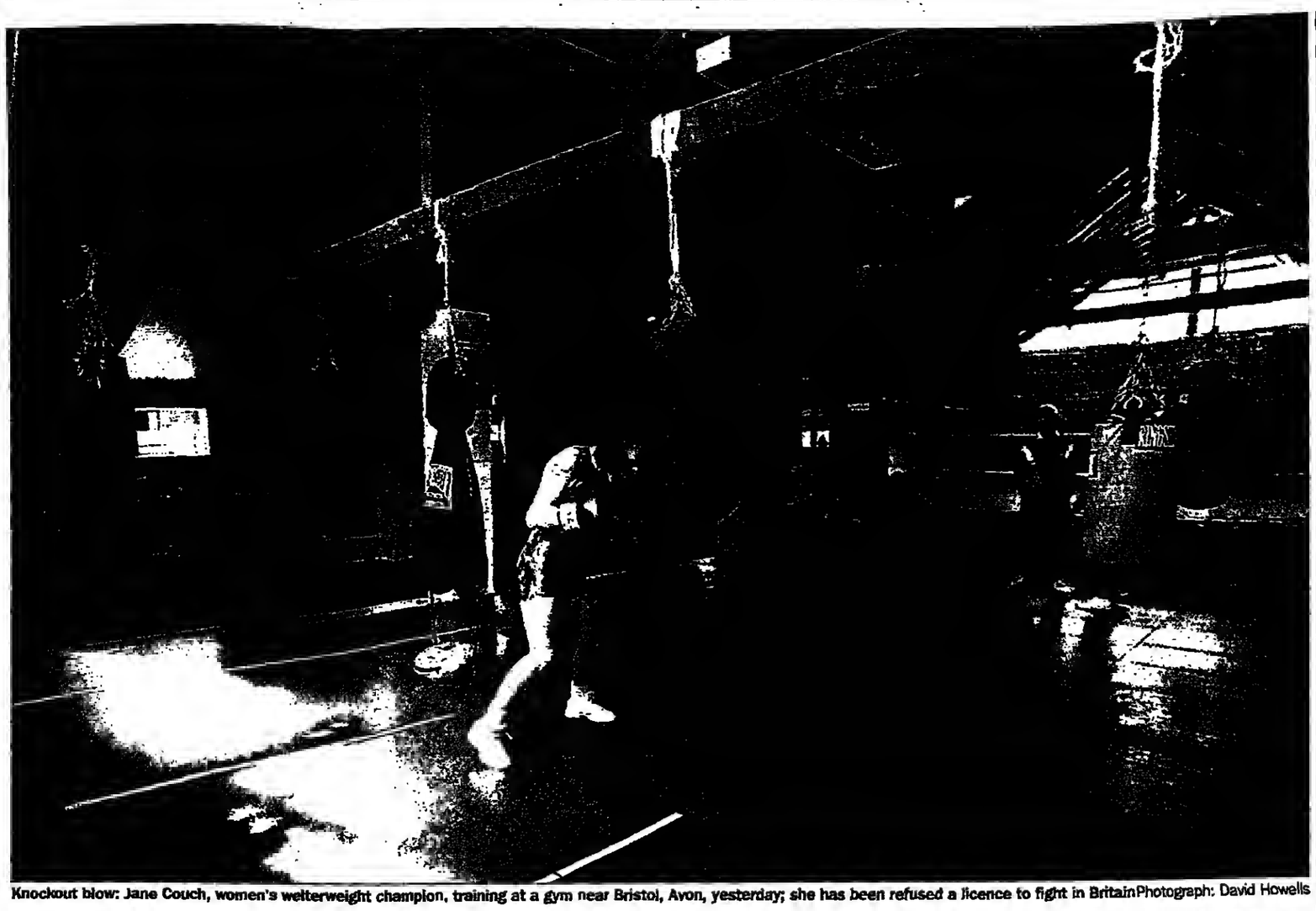

Knockout blow: Jane Couch, women's welterweight champion, training at a gym near Bristol, Avon, yesterday; she has been refused a licence to fight in Britain Photograph: David Howells

Woman with a winning punch who is barred from boxing

Kathy Marks

Jane Couch holds the women's world welterweight boxing title. She has fought at major events in America and in Europe, appearing on the same bill as some of the biggest names in men's boxing. But in her home country, she is effectively barred from professional competition.

The British Boxing Board of Control (BBBC), the sport's governing body, has always refused to license women, citing medical grounds. Without a licence, female professionals cannot compete at men's fights – the events that attract the promoters and the sponsorship money.

Couch, 28, has decided to provoke a showdown with the BBBC, which she accuses of being stuck in a chauvinistic time warp. Last week she applied for a licence, knowing she would be turned down. Now she plans to launch a court action, claiming restriction of trade and sexual discrimination. "It's ridiculous that I'm a world champion and I can't fight in Britain," said Couch, known as the "Fleetwood Assassin", after her Lancashire home town.

In the United States and in much of Europe, particularly France, Germany and Scandinavia, women's boxing is regarded as a legitimate sport and is followed avidly on television.

Some experts suggest that women are more vulnerable to head injuries than men, but others point out that they also throw a less-heavy punch. A recent meeting of the World Boxing Council's medical panel was told that the sport is no more dangerous for women than for men.

However, John Morris, general secretary of the BBBC, remains unconvinced. "There is the question of pregnancy, and of whether women should box during their... periods," he said. "Our doctors are ambivalent."

The board, which is taking legal advice on Couch's court action, has no plans to conduct any research on the subject. Mr Morris suggested that female professionals should set up their own licensing body.

"A lot of people on my board don't like the idea of women boxing and getting their faces knocked around," he said. "I may be old-fashioned, but neither do I. And just imagine the outcry if a woman got badly hurt."

Couch, naturally, scoffs at such sentiments, saying she has only ever suffered a few cuts and bruises – "nothing worse than you would get down the pub on a Saturday night". For her, the rush of adrenalin is the driving force. "I just love going into that ring," she said. She believes that her sport will eventually receive recognition in Britain and was heartened by the Amateur Boxing Association's decision last year to allow women and girls to fight. But for professionals, the only British events in which they can participate are all-female fights, which are rarely staged because of scant interest from promoters and the shortage of high-calibre women.

Pauline Dickson, of the Association of Women Boxers, is circumspect. "You can't expect things to change overnight," she said. "But women's boxing is a hot potato that no one really wants to take responsibility for."

Couch, who started boxing two and a half years ago, won the world title last May in Copenhagen. She will defend it in August in Connecticut, on the same bill as Montell Griffin, the World Boxing Council light-heavyweight champion.

But for the moment, her aggression is directed at the BBBC. "They've got a fight on their hands," she said.

Spot drug tests for children of nine

Patricia Wynn Davies

Would-be football stars as young as nine are being randomly tested for drugs at the 147 centres of excellence across England & Wales.

Alan Hodson, of the Football Association's drugs control programme, told the Association of Chief Police Officers' national drugs conference that 10,000 youngsters aged between nine and 16 could be tested in unannounced spot checks at any of the centres.

News meanwhile emerged of the latest device by prisoners for getting round drugs tests in jails. Some prisoners have already switched from cannabis to heroin because heroin flushes out of the bloodstream more quickly.

Now, according to last night's BBC Radio 4 *File on 4*, inmates are using a mixture of heroin and paracetamol known as "Two Card" in which the purity level of the drug is reduced so that it becomes un- detectable in urine tests. The mix is known as "Two Card" because it often costs two phone cards in prison currency.

Mr Hodson told the ACPO conference in Hinckley, Leicestershire, that it was not unusual for promising teenage footballers to be pestered by drug pushers between five and six times during an evening in night clubs.

"I don't think that we all realise what pressures there are," Mr Hodson said. "When we have got pushers and peddlers bringing things down to £1.50 for a pill, that's pocket money stuff."

The young footballers have their urine samples collected by the Sports Council and analysed at King's College, London. The council bears most of the £230 cost of each test. Any youngster testing positive is then sent to a drugs assessor and must comply with the recommendations in a report, Mr Hodson said.

"They may then be banned from playing until the FA says so and must agree to target tests if they resume playing."

He said that of 500 random tests carried out last season, five were positive – three youths and two professionals.

George Howarth, the Home Office minister, told the conference: "I refuse to accept that drugs have become part of growing up.

"Just one in four young people has taken drugs in the past year and even fewer – just one in seven – has done so in the last month.

"But these figures are too high. The Government is determined to repair those communities damaged by drug use by getting young people into employment and drug users into treatment."

Another speaker at the conference, Professor Howard Parker of Manchester University, called for a drugs-cautioning system for the personal use of cannabis.

"On the other hand, I would like to see drug-driving taken far more seriously."

Prof Parker claimed that some police officers simply disposed of cannabis seized from people because they did not want to deal with the paperwork.

Although a cautioning system for the personal use of cannabis would effectively decriminalise the drug, Prof Parker said afterwards that he was not in favour of decriminalisation as such.

"It's not realistic. We are not a mature enough society."

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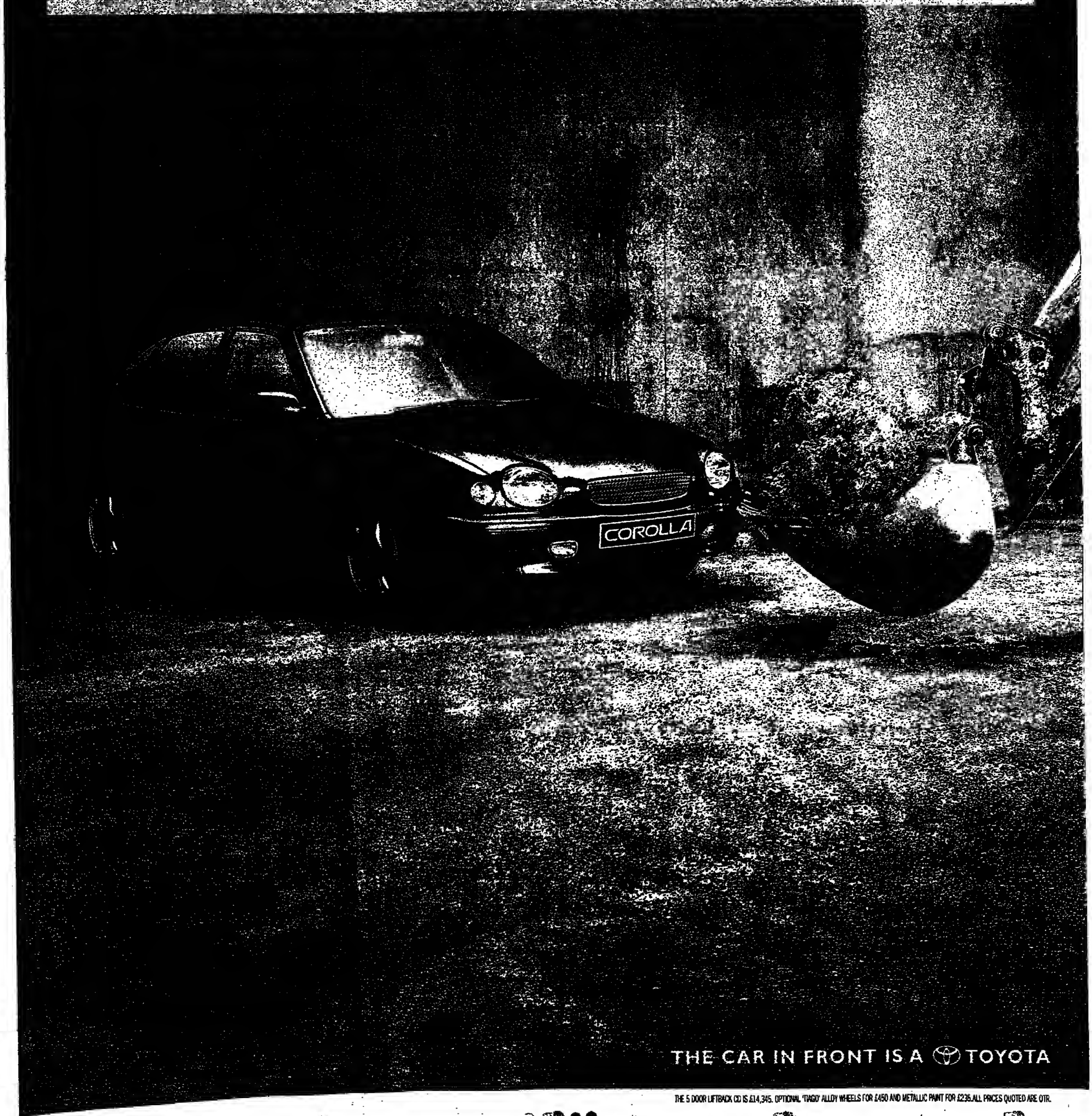

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The cruel trade that Europe won't ban

Nicholas Schoon
Environment Correspondent

Britain will this week face a confrontation with its European partners, anxious to avoid a trade dispute with Canada and the US, as it presses ahead with moves to ban the import into Europe of furs from animals caught with steel-jawed leghold traps.

The traps, which can hold an animal held alive for hours with smashed leg bones and other severe wounds, are outlawed in Britain and have long been the target of animal welfare campaigners.

Six years ago, a European directive banned them and halted the import of furs from nations which use the traps.

But the European Commission has never implemented the trade ban for fear of opening a trade war with the main fur exporters, Canada, the US and Russia. As an alternative, the Commission has negotiated a deal on humane trapping standards which would apply both to the exporters and European countries too.

No way out: A mink caught in the steel traps banned in Britain but which are still used by Canadian hunters on species such as the lynx, right

Photograph: Robert Franz/Planet Earth

Environment ministers from European Union states will vote on this deal, covering 19 species of mammal, at their meeting in Luxembourg tomorrow. The matter will be decided by qualified majority voting, so Britain cannot veto it. But it may find enough allies to block it: Austria and Sweden could side with the UK.

Canada still uses the steel-jawed leghold as a restraining trap (one which keeps its victims alive) for five species – the racoon, bobcat, lynx, coyote and wolf. If Europe signs up to the agreement, Canada promises to phase it out within three years.

Looking on anxiously is the British fur trade, which has been trying to persuade the environment minister, Michael Meacher, to drop his opposition to the agreement. Mr Meacher has told them he is too busy for a meeting, although he has met the RSPCA, which sees the agreement on humane trapping standards as a betrayal of animal welfare.

Although years of campaigning against fur has made the trade almost disappear from Britain's fashion stores, more than half the international fur trade is handled by British traders, brokers and insurance firms. The British Fur Trade Association says the business is worth around £300m a year.

"It seems crazy to us to think our government wouldn't sign this," said Peter Zeitlin, who leads the association and hails the agreement as "a massive leap forward for animal welfare".

The US and Canada have warned that were Europe to reject the agreement, and then implement the ban on fur imports, it would go to the World Trade Organisation, the international court which decides on trade disputes. If that found against the EU, Europe would have to pay compensation or itself be the target of legitimate trade sanctions from the complainants.

The deal on trapping standards has taken years to negotiate. Along the way, the US has dropped out, saying that because trapping regulations are set by individual states rather than the federal government, it cannot guarantee to implement them.

Now both the European negotiators and those from Canada and Russia say they can go no further; environment ministers have to accept or reject the agreement, but they cannot request amendments. "That would be a mission impossible," said a Commission source.

Under the agreement (see panel), within a few years time, any mechanical trap used to catch animals for pest control or food as well as for fur, must meet basic standards limiting the amount of pain and wounding they cause.

Supporters say it will give a worldwide boost to the development of less cruel traps of all designs. Critics say it is a fudge which sanctions continued use of the horrific leghold traps. It does not cover snares, nor the two species most frequently trapped in Britain – the fox and the rabbit.

The European Commission was itself divided on the issue, with the trade commissioner, Sir Leon Brittan, in favour of the agreement, and the environment commissioner, Ritt Bjerregaard, opposed.

Sir Leon got the backing of most commissioners, so Ms Bjerregaard will advise the environment ministers to accept this week. "She will do her duty," said the commission source. A senior official in the Canadian Foreign Ministry said: "If we get Europe, Canada, Russia and then the US on board, then the rest of the world will follow."

But a spokesman for the Department of the Environment said: "We don't think this agreement goes far enough, so we'll vote against and urge the EU to bring in the trade ban."

How humane is humane?

Limb amputation, bone and tooth fracture, severe internal organ damage, severing of ligaments and tendons and serious internal or external haemorrhage, are among 14 types of "injuries recognised as indicators of poor welfare in trapped wild animals," according to the international humane trapping standards agreement.

"Self-directed biting, leading to severe injury [self-mutilation], or excessive immobility and unresponsiveness" are also behaviour indicative of poor welfare, says the 31-page treaty.

Eighty per cent of animals caught in restraining traps – intended to keep their victims alive – should show none of these indicators of suffering. If the device fails to meet this standard then the trap should be outlawed. And the way to assess its performance on any of the 19 mammal species covered by the agreement, is to test it on at least 20 animals.

The document also sets standards for "killing traps". For most of the 19 species, the victim animal must fall into the state of "unconsciousness and insensibility" which precedes death, within five minutes of being caught.

Again, to be legal, a trap only has to achieve this 80 per cent of the time. And its ability to confirm to the standard has to be assessed by testing on at least 12 animals. Countries party to the agreement have up to five years in which to bring in these standards.

David Bowles, European Campaigner with the RSPCA, is outraged by this five-minute time limit – he says it is far too long. He also condemns the agreement for legalising traps which fail to meet the standards 20 per cent of the time.

"It would be good to have a universal agreement on humane trapping standards, but this certainly isn't it," he says. "The standards are far too lax and the European Commission has given in too much to Canada."

Nicholas Schoon

DAILY POEM

The Terrible Beauty of Efficiency

By Phoebe Hesketh

Rivington Village post office
as I knew it sixty years ago
with its scratched wooden table, ink-well,
cross-nibbed pen and blotting-paper reflecting
bucolic signatures,
its packets of Woodbines
and jars of spiralling barley-sugar,
is all *changed, changed utterly:*
A terrible beauty is born.

There's a counter smooth with efficiency
and a shining metal grille
guarding the new, smart postmistress
(since the old one was mugged) –
Oh, so smart you'd never hear her say
like the other,
after giving me the wrong stamp
(which I told her I'd licked),
"Never mind," as she took it back,
"It'll dry!"

Phoebe Hesketh was born in 1909 in Preston and published her first collection in 1939. She has lived for most of her life in the Lancashire landscape about which she writes. This poem comes from her new volume, *A Box of Silver Birch*, published by Enitharmon Press (£5.95) at 36 St George's Avenue, London N7 0HD.

news

Plan to make drivers pay for congestion

...but will it be too late to save the countryside?

Randeep Ramesh
Transport Correspondent

The Government will produce a consultation paper this autumn on road pricing for motorists in large towns and cities, to tackle pollution and congestion.

A Department of Transport working group has produced a paper which proposes a charge of £4 per vehicle.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister who runs the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions, is keen to make the scheme part of a White Paper on the Government's plans to get people out of cars and on to public transport.

The consultation exercise will invite local authorities to produce schemes to reduce traffic and provide money for public transport. The paper would pave the way for wide-ranging powers to be outlined next spring in the transport White Paper. This could be used by local authorities to implement congestion-charging.

A government-funded study in 1995 produced a road pricing study in London that could reduce traffic in central London by 17 per cent, cut accidents by 5 per cent and pollution levels by up to 20 per cent. The report calculated that a city-wide scheme would fund nearly £6bn of public-transport schemes.

However, ministers backed away from the idea, as business and freight operators opposed the plans.

Mr Prescott believes industry could be won over with the promise of quicker journeys.

Making people pay to get off the road is likely to be the only way motorists will leave their cars at home.

Yesterday's "Car Free Day" flopped, as motorways and town centres ended up more congested than usual, in spite of pleas to motorists to leave their cars at home and use public transport or cycle to work.

In the South-east, a rail dispute also played a part in the build-up of traffic. One in five trains was cancelled from Sussex, Surrey and Hampshire into London Bridge and Victoria and the disruption on Connex South Central looks set to continue.

An AA spokesman said: "The rush hour started earlier than usual, and by 7am the M25 through Sussex and Surrey was awash with cars, most of them occupied only by a driver."

Tolls for roads

- Singapore road-pricing was introduced in 1975 with draconian monitoring of the £1-a-day permits.
- Oslo is ringed by 17 tolled entrances which allow permit holders to use fast lanes, raising money for public transport.
- Germany was thwarted by windscreen smart-cards being affected by the sun. Joined France and Italy in investing in a Leicester-based scheme, Eurotoll, under which prices vary according to pollution. Also, motorists save money if they use public transport.

Commuters also faced congestion in the North-east, where the AA reported 56 "travel flashes", instead of the usual 47.

Not all areas were choked by congestion. Some areas, such as Leeds, were a quieter.

The Midlands, Wales and the West Country saw no change and the rush hour in Birmingham, Bristol and Cardiff was a busy as ever, with travellers in Exeter facing extra-long journeys after a spate of accidents.

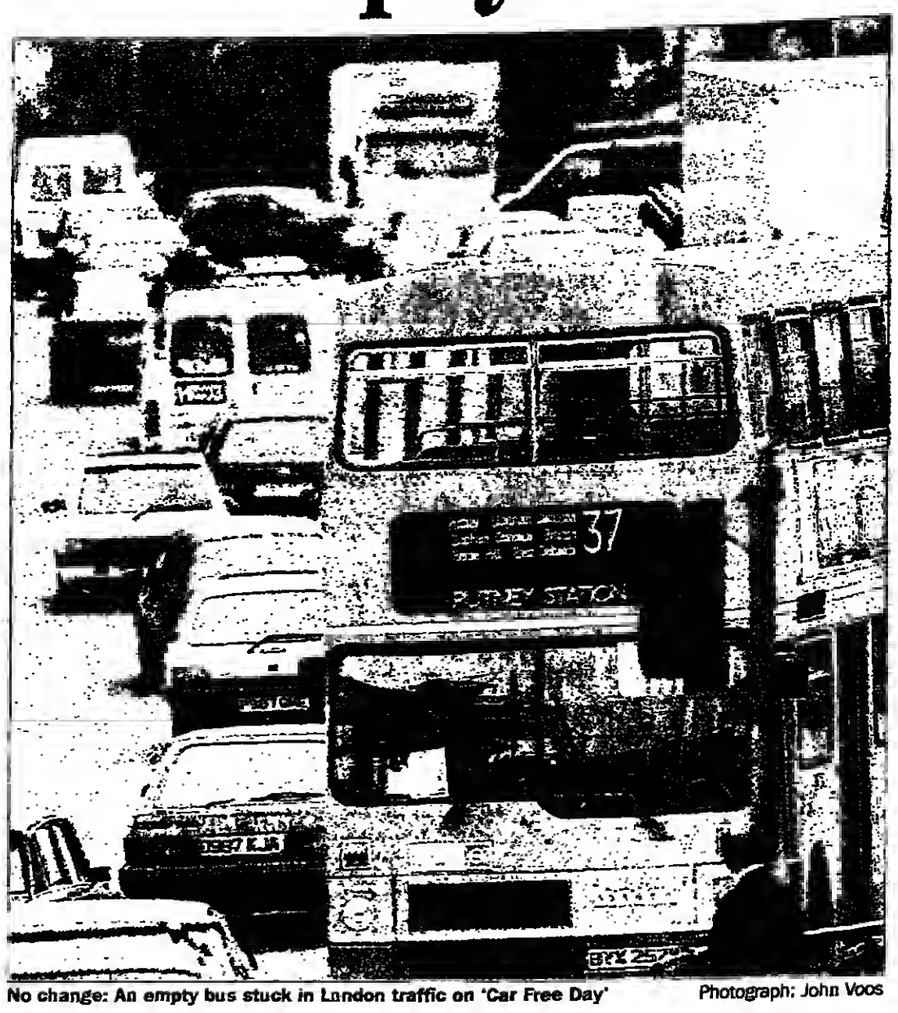
The aim of "Car Free Day" is to persuade people that the quickest, cheapest and most environmentally friendly way of getting from A to B involves cutting the number of vehicles pouring on to the roads.

The Government supported the measures. Glenda Jackson, the transport minister, told BBC Radio 4 *Today* programme that "there are alternatives to an over-car dependency".

She then launched a park-and-ride scheme in Reading, Berkshire, part of the town's integrated transport system, which allows commuters to leave their cars on the outskirts and take the bus to the centre.

Ms Jackson said: "These are schemes which the Government strongly support. It has come on stream by a partnership between the local authority and private business ... 97 per cent of the people who live in the area strongly endorse the proposals.

"There are obviously other things – like facilities for cyclists and pedestrians, making car parking in the city centre either very expensive, or simply not possible."



No change: An empty bus stuck in London traffic on 'Car Free Day' Photograph: John Voos

More than four million new households are likely to be formed by 2016, placing even more powerful pressures on the countryside, Jonathan Dimbleby, the president of the Council for Rural England, said yesterday.

He warned that housing and traffic will cover green fields unless something was done and described his message as a "call to action for everyone who cares about the future of rural England".

Mr Dimbleby, famed as a television presenter, was making a parting speech as president at the CPRE's general council. He said: "Three hundred people a day are leaving our major cities for the countryside, showing that not only have we lost confidence in our cities, but we are prepared to tolerate sprawl across our most precious environmental asset – our countryside.

"This is one of the central issues confronting the new Government, to which CPRE is committed to helping finding constructive solutions.

"But the big pressures facing the countryside are more powerful than ever, with 4.4 million new households projected to form by 2016, traffic on rural roads predicted to double or even treble by 2025 and a meagre 2 per cent of the huge agricultural budget devoted to environmentally friendly farming."

Praising the success of CPRE Mr Dimbleby said the organisation's efforts had led to:

- out-of-town shopping centres losing favour.
- cuts in the road programme.
- the dropping of plans to relax curbs on outdoor advertising.
- official policy to promote the sympathetic design of new development in the countryside.
- renewed efforts to increasing the share of new housing in towns and cities.

Oasis drives its fans off the Internet

Charles Arthur
Science Editor

Fear of prosecution has driven fans of the rock band Oasis to remove sound and video clips of the musicians from the Internet, in a case which could have wider repercussions for users of the World Wide Web.

On 5 May, Ignition Management, which runs Oasis, sent an e-mail to hundreds of fans with sites on the Web, warning them that they had a month to remove "copyrighted" material from their sites.

But it was hazy about what material was copyrighted – including pictures, audio and video clips, lyrics and guitar chords. The deadline arrived on 1 June. So far 36 of the hundreds of sites mentioning Oasis have either shut down or removed material.

Some fans suspect that Ignition has decided not to pursue the matter, possibly realising that its attempts to shut sites have aroused anger but produced no commercial benefit. "I really doubt that they'll come out and say 'All right, we were wrong, we're sorry'," said Jack Martin, who runs a Web site opposing the "copyright" claims.

If every site carrying Oasis material closes down, then an important precedent may be set. Equally, it may have been unfair for Ignition to demand the removal of the data, which may have been permitted under "fair use" – that is, quotation – aspects of copyright law.

Mr Martin's site, at the University of Kansas in the US, now offers tips to Oasis fans with sites on how to avoid copyright claims by the company.

Since the deadline, Ignition and Creation, the band's record company, have refused to explain what they consider a copyright breach, how many sites are being examined, or when legal action would be taken.

Mr Martin has been unable to get any reaction either. "I can't imagine it would take more than a week or so to look at the sites to see if they'd complied or not," he said. A spokeswoman for Creation said: "The band are very busy, and so are the management."

The reaction of fans has been overwhelmingly negative. Stephen Penna, aged 14, from Redhill in Surrey, disconnected his site from the Web about a week before the deadline.

"I had Oasis sound clips and album and single covers on my site, neither of which anyone from the companies would have liked to be on my site," he told *The Independent*. "I am still a big Oasis fan, and think nothing ill of them, especially as Noel [Gallagher, lead guitarist] said that he and the band had nothing to do with shutting down fan sites. But Ignition and Creation are just making a big fuss for nothing."

Facing the facts: White extremist Eugene TerreBlanche, who received a jail sentence yesterday, addressing a rally

Photograph: Reuters

TerreBlanche jailed for attack on black worker

Ed O'Loughlin
Johannesburg

The South African neo-Nazi leader Eugene TerreBlanche was sentenced to six years in prison yesterday for the attempted murder of a poor black labourer employed on his western Transvaal farm.

The assault in March 1996 on Paul Motshabi, 27, could mark the end of TerreBlanche's 24-year crusade to defend white supremacy. Mr Motshabi was left brain-damaged and crippled after TerreBlanche battered him with a blunt instrument on his Ventersdorp farm, allegedly for taking a break without permission.

At his trial in April, TerreBlanche was also convicted of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm for setting his dog on John Ndzima, a gas station attendant, two weeks before the attack on Mr Motshabi.

Both convictions will be appealed and the court ruled that TerreBlanche could be released on a bail of 20,000 rands (£2,726). The founder and leader of the paramilitary AWB showed no emotion yesterday as Judge Chris Eksteen handed down sentence in the courtroom in Potchefstroom.

Uniformed AWB supporters produced sacks full of coins to pay the stipulated bail, prompting the judge to send TerreBlanche back to his cell until the money was counted.

Afterwards, surrounded by his supporters, TerreBlanche – a former policeman who came to symbolise white racist resistance to the erosion of apartheid – described the trial as a "mockery" and said that he did not believe he would have to serve any time in prison.

"It's the greatest injustice," he said. "I regard it as laughable. I am convinced the appeal case will prove me correct. If I should go to prison today the truth would be locked in with me."

If the sentence is upheld it will be the end of a long run of luck for TerreBlanche, who for more than 20 years has tread a fine line between politics and terrorism, antagonising first the less extreme defenders of apartheid in the National Party government and then President Nelson Mandela's non-racial African National Congress.

Howard set to give Queen the bad news

Australian PM's first visit to Britain marks a sea change in relations, writes **Robert Milliken**

Sydney — When John Howard, the Australian prime minister, arrives in Britain today, he will be more interested to bolster his country's sagging cricket fortunes than its republican credentials.

Making his first visit to Britain since the election 15 months ago of the conservative Liberal-National coalition (Australia's Tories), Mr Howard will reinforce the sea change that has happened in Australia since his Labor predecessor, Paul Keating, told the Queen at Balmoral in 1993 that it was time Australia replaced her with a head of state of its own.

Mr Howard is an old-fashioned monarchist and cricket-lover, who believes Australia should maintain the constitutional arrangements under which it has been governed for the past 96 years, with the British monarch as head of state. But his election reflected a disenchantment with 13 years of Labor Party rule more than a rejection of the republican cause. Opinion polls still indicate that more than half Australian voters want a republic.

So, much as he would like to keep the topic off his British agenda, Mr Howard will be obliged to tell the Queen during his audience with her later this week that he will be convening a 10-day constitutional convention in Canberra in December during which delegates will canvass options through which Australia could amend its constitution to abolish links with the monarchy.

Howard: Old-style monarchist

The other issue which Mr Howard would like to leave at home, but which is also likely to dog him here, is a row over his government's approach to Aborigines. The focus is a chilling report released last month of an inquiry, ordered by the Keating government, into the "stolen generation" – an estimated 100,000 Aboriginal children taken from their parents up to the 1960s, and put in white foster homes.

The report's author, Sir Ronald Wilson, president of Australia's human rights commission, described such practices as "genocide" because their ultimate aim was to obliterate Ab-original culture. This was so, he argued, because Australia's now discredited approach at the time was to separate indigenous babies and children from their traditional backgrounds in the belief that a white upbringing offered them a "better" future. For thousands of so-called beneficiaries, the policies proved a disaster.

Sir Ronald called on the government to apologise formally on behalf of the country. Mr Howard has baulked at this. Instead, he has said he is "personally" sorry. He maintained that a formal apology could open a flood of compensation claims. But Mr Howard is far less sympathetic than Mr Keating was to the way reconciliation with Aborigines over past injustices has become a flashpoint of Australian politics.

Supporters of the "stolen children" are taking the cause to London, with newspaper letters and advertisements calling on Mr Howard to think again and apologise. His critics contrast his stand-offish manner with President Clinton's official apology to black Americans unwittingly used as guinea pigs in experiments on untreated syphilis up to the 1970s.

Mr Howard's talks with Mr Blair will focus on measures to reduce unemployment, which last week climbed to 8.8 per cent in Australia. Philosophically, Mr Blair is more in tune with Paul Keating, from whom he allegedly borrowed some social policies, than with Mr Howard.

The British and Australian governments this year are spending millions of pounds on a programme called New Images, designed to revive cultural, scientific and educational links between the two countries. New images is a term many people associate more with Tony Blair than with John Howard. It will be a challenge for this unlikely pair to put a fresh mask on an old relationship.

Cambodia rivals start shooting

Matthew Chance and agencies
Phnom Penh

A gunbattle broke out in the Cambodian capital yesterday between the police and bodyguards of the First Prime Minister Norodom Ranariddh as police surrounded Ranariddh's compound.

The fighting broke out late in the evening and continued past midnight. Beside automatic weapons fire, more than a dozen explosions, believed to be from rocket-propelled grenades, were heard.

About 100 police, loyal to Ranariddh's rival, Second Prime Minister Hun Sen, surrounded the house. It was not clear if Ranariddh was inside, though he normally stays there. A soldier loyal to his royalist party was reported killed.

One B-40 rocket landed in the nearby compound of US ambassador Kenneth Quinn, causing slight damage.

The fighting broke out at a time of heightened tensions in Cambodia, as the once fearsome Khmer Rouge rebel movement appeared to be on its last legs, with all but a few of its hardcore supporters preparing to make peace.

Ranariddh and Hun Sen have been vying for the support of the defecting guerrillas, who are considered a potentially powerful force ahead of elections scheduled for next year.

Earlier yesterday, the Khmer Rouge rebels hinted that their leader, Pol Pot, had been overthrown. Breaking nearly a week of silence, the guerrilla organisation accused Pol Pot, of "betrayal" in a clandestine radio broadcast.

The statement, which follows several days of fighting between rival Khmer Rouge factions, said the group had now "solved quietly" its internal problems and was ready to make peace.

However, there was no direct word on the fate of Pol Pot himself, the man whose brutal regime saw an estimated 2 million people die. "What is absolutely clear from this broadcast is that Pol Pot is no longer a player," one diplomat said.

A purge last week of Khmer Rouge commanders sympathetic to a proposed peace deal with the government is reported to have split the group, forcing Pol Pot and a 200 hardline loyalists to abandon their remote Anlong Veng stronghold.

Blair steers steady course over treaty

Sarah Helm reports on a late night for leaders

Tony Blair was negotiating deep into last night with European partners, working to finalise the Amsterdam Treaty, which the leaders hope will settle differences over new power-sharing.

As the talks entered their end-game, Mr Blair, attending his first formal European summit, was put to serious test as a player in the European version of multi-dimensional chess.

The outcome of last night's talks will indicate whether Mr Blair is justified in arguing that his new co-operative approach with Europe has strengthened his negotiating hand

Along with every other leader, Mr Blair was reluctant to cede powers in several areas, but was certain to have to trade off slices of British sovereignty during the course of the night.

As the evening wore on, the top priority for Britain was to block attempts by other member states, led by France and Germany, to commit the union to a common European defence in the new treaty.

Britain fears that giving the European Union powers over defence would eventually turn the union into a military, as well as a political alliance, thereby undermining the role of Nato.

Mr Blair was therefore determined last night to remove language from the draft treaty text which suggests that the Western European Union (WEU), Europe's *de facto* defence arm, should become gradually integrated in the EU.

However, at the eleventh hour, the Netherlands, which holds the EU presidency, raised the stakes by suggesting a protocol be attached to the new treaty detailing the three phases by which the WEU would be incorporated into EU structures.

In its fight against new defence power-sharing, Britain was counting on support from Denmark and four neutral countries – Ireland, Austria, Sweden and Finland. However, it seemed unlikely that Mr Blair would be able to neutralise the Franco-German initiative, and was likely to be forced to accept a compromise.

Britain had already secured its prime Amsterdam objective, maintaining rights over frontier controls, before last night's negotiations began.

As a price for this concession the Government ceded the right of other states to develop a joint immigration and asylum policy.

Last night Mr Blair was still attempting to limit related moves to extend the powers of the European Court to allow judges to oversee decisions on police co-operation and crime fighting. Britain was also hoping to stop moves by other member states to pool sovereignty in civil judicial policy.

British negotiators said last night they expected to "make some progress" on the European Court issue. However, other states remained determined to give a boost to the courts' role and to co-operate more widely in the judicial field.

Mr Blair's hope of securing a firm commitment from partners to curb the practice of fish-quota hopping appeared to be in some doubt, due to objections from Spain.

The highly sensitive move to introduce "flexible decision-making" into EU procedures – whereby some countries can move ahead at a faster pace than others – was another area where Mr Blair was likely to be forced to consider a trade off.

Britain has made clear that it wants the right to veto any move by other groups of countries to pool powers as a one-off group. However, it seemed unlikely that Mr Blair would be able to win partners round.

The best he could hope for was to secure agreement that the "flexibility" procedure would not be applied to certain core EU policy areas, such as the single market.

The Prime Minister, who has accepted some extension of qualified majority voting, was still hoping to reduce the list of eleven areas to which other states want the system applied.

Hammering out their consensus, the leaders were acutely aware that their treaty must be far-reaching enough to allow the EU to accommodate new members.

Failure to agree sufficient reforms of Europe's institutions and decision-making process could force member states to launch further treaty-revision.

However, the length of the final negotiations indicated just how far apart many countries were on core issues relating to re-shaping the union.

Wheeling and dealing: Tony Blair and the Austrian Chancellor, Viktor Klima, on bicycles given to them in Amsterdam yesterday Photograph: Reuters

Animal rights

The revised Treaty of Rome enshrines rights for farm animals and provides a boost for environmentalism. It says member states "shall pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals ... as sentient beings". But there is a suggestion of an opt-out to protect "religious rites and cultural traditions" which involve cruelty to animals. The words "sustainable development" now appears in the new treaty three times.

French fudge threatens euro launch

Sarah Helm
Amsterdam

Just 24 hours after Europe's leaders patched up differences over the single currency, France signalled yesterday that the arguments over the euro rule book are far from over. Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the French finance minister, indicated that France will continue to push for a "flexible" interpretation of the Maastricht criteria.

Decisions on which countries meet Maastricht's crucial budget deficit rules, should be based on whether countries are "coming as close as possible" to the ceiling, set at three per cent of gross domestic product, he said.

Mr Strauss-Kahn's comments, at the EU's Amsterdam summit, are certain to fuel new fears in Bonn and London that France is seeking to "fudge" the Maastricht rules, as well as the rules of the German-designed "stability pact", which will enforce fiscal discipline after the euro launch.

Meanwhile, Pierre Moscovici, France's European affairs minister, sparked doubts about economic and monetary union for the second time in a week by saying in a radio interview that Paris would decide whether or not to join the euro after assessing public finances.

After hours of uncertainty, Prime Minister Lionel Jospin's spokesman Manuel Valls told reporters in Amsterdam, that Mr Moscovici had spoken out of turn.

"He spoke too quickly. This is not an expression either of our political will or of a strategy," Mr Valls said. He said the position spelled out several times by Mr Jospin was that France would meet the criteria and deadline set to launch EMU in January 1999. "This will not be done to the detriment of employment and growth," he added.

Under the stability pact rules, any country which does not keep to the three per cent ceiling after the single currency launch becomes subject to near-automatic fines.

In a hard-fought deal, agreed at the Amsterdam in summit on Monday, France appeared to step back from confrontation with Bonn over the single currency discipline by agreeing, after all, to accept the "stability pact" with no changes.

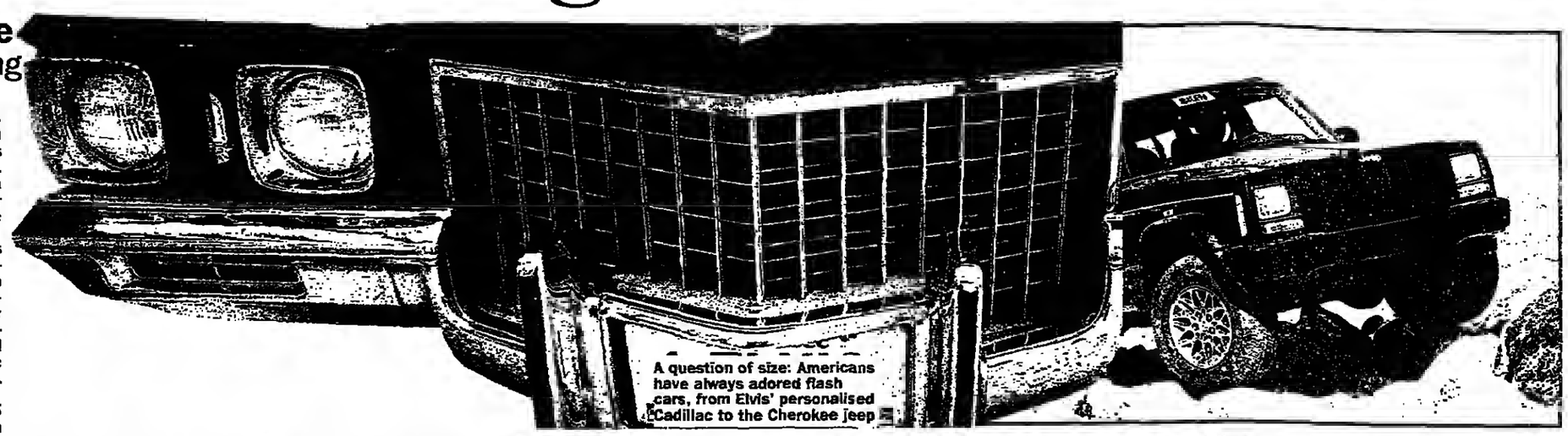
Yesterday however, Mr Strauss-Khan destabilised the fragile new accord by stating in frankest terms yet heard from a European leader that the 3 per cent rules should not be precisely observed.

"The principle is to come close to 3 per cent. Countries must come as close as possible to three per cent and must show that they are on a trend towards three per cent even if they have not achieved it," he said.

Mr Strauss- Khan can rightly argue that the text of the Maastricht rules do allow for some flexible interpretation. However, to date, it has been largely taboo for Europe's leaders to suggest that they might fudge the final decision.

Big is beautiful again in the US suburbs

David Usborne
machines taking



A question of size: Americans have always adored flash cars, from Elvis' personalised Cadillac to the Cherokee jeep

If you thought that the love affair between Americans and their gas-guzzling road-cruisers was over long ago, think again. Tail-fins may not yet be back in fashion, but cars with monster dimensions are once more the national rage.

In fact, these garage-busters are not cars at all. What is drawing buyers to the showrooms in droves are so-called sport utility vehicles that ride high above the road. They have beefy engines, intimidating front-grill fenders and that other feature that is so vital in suburbia, four-wheel drive.

Their conquest of the US roadway – the big American manufacturers like Ford and General Motors simply cannot keep up with demand – is sounding alarm bells among safety groups. In accidents between these Goliaths and flimsy saloons, guess which gets crushed?

Ford apparently sees no limits to the trend. Yesterday came news that it is developing what should be the biggest utility yet – an eight-passenger titan to be called a crew wagon. It will be 19 feet long – compared with slightly under 15 feet for the Jeep Cherokee – and boast a V-10 engine under the bonnet.

The crew wagon will be bigger even than the current bully among bullies, the Chevrolet Suburban. In this correspondent's neighbourhood the Suburbans rule everywhere except in one street. Here there is a resident with the biggest status-symbol-on-wheels available anywhere – the Hummer, a derivative of military vehicle that might have been designed to cross the Himalayas.

At Universal Ford, a sprawling dealership just across the East River from Manhattan in Queens, Frank Thomas confirms the passion for size. "The bigger they are and the larger the engine-size, the more I sell," he said yesterday. "I love it." For every five large-saloon Taurus models he sells, he will shift 30 of the four-wheel-drive Ford Explorers.

"It's totally about ego," Mr Thomas says of his customers. "I look at their backgrounds and their credit histories and it's obvious that there is absolutely no practical point in them buying these vehicles.

"They think that they are going out on safari or something when in fact the largest obstacle they are likely to meet around here is a runaway shopping trolley".

An additional, somewhat ironic, attraction of these brutes is that their size means that they can no longer be described as small cars by the government. They thus escape both luxury taxes and federal regulations on fuel consumption.

There will be no limits on how much these vehicles can drink – which is a good thing. Most can manage only 14 miles a gallon.

The safety disadvantage that the rest of us find ourselves in on the road was highlighted by a study released last week by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

It noted that in fatal accidents involving a car and a light truck, which includes pick-ups and sport utilities, 80 per cent of those who died were riding in the cars.

That is a statistic, however, that may only quicken the stampede for the utilities. Have one of these parked outside your house and not only are you the meanest SOB on the block, your kids are likely to be the safest, too.

And who worries about fuel efficiency when you are living in a country where a gallon of petrol sells for less money than a gallon of designer mineral water?

Clinton to offer Africa a new deal

Mary Dejevsky
Washington

The United States is to embark on a major initiative on Africa, designed to shift the focus of policy from aid and development towards trade and investment.

The policy, whose key word is "partnership", was presented by President Bill Clinton with great fanfare from the White House yesterday and concludes months of consideration in the US Administration about how and whether the US should play a greater role in the continent.

Last year, the then Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, made the first tour of Africa by a US official of that rank, and Mr Clinton's wife, Hillary, and daughter, Chelsea, toured investment and aid projects in several African countries this spring.

The announcement of the Africa initiative came as the US was making final preparations for the annual summit of the Group of Seven industrialised countries – this year called the Summit of the Eight because it includes Russia – which opens on Friday in Denver, Colorado.

The timing was seen in Washington as a move by the US to pre-empt criticism from other G7 countries, notably France, that it was not doing as much as it could to assist developing countries in general, and African countries in particular.

Last year, US overseas aid fell below the level of France for the first time. However, yesterday's announcement was also seen as an attempt to concentrate discussions at Denver, where a session will be devoted to Africa, on the successes among African states that have adopted free market principles. Last year, these countries achieved an average growth rate of 5 per cent.

Analysts said the US might also be concerned to divert attention away from what one called "the few" African countries experiencing civil strife.

They noted that France, and perhaps some other G7 members might see Mr Clinton's initiative as an attempt to steer summit discussions away from their concerns about stemming poverty and resolving conflicts in Africa. The five-point initiative includes the redirection of already agreed funds towards infrastructure projects, among them telecommunications – and backing for private investment. The US will also implement a debt reduction agreement that was reached in February, to lessen the debt burden on the poorest African countries.

significant shorts

Paedophile hunt gains momentum in France

A gendarmerie spokesman announced the arrest of 120 suspects yesterday after some 2,500 gendarmes fanned out across France in a crackdown on paedophile video fans. 14 months of investigation led gendarmes to a mail-order company in Macon selling pornographic films involving boys. The para-military police intended to search the homes of 800 people whose names were found on the company mailing list. France's first major paedophilia trial opened in Paris on Monday, with 71 Frenchmen facing charges of organising or subscribing to a network selling pornographic films involving boys. **Reuters - Paris**

Congo truce offers respite

The warring parties in the Congo Republic's capital Brazzaville agreed to a three-day truce and a demilitarisation of the international airport, a focus of fighting in the city, the French ambassador said. **Reuters – Brazzaville**

Rabbis charged over drugs

US federal prosecutors said two Orthodox rabbis in New York were charged with channelling $1.75m (£1m) in Colombian drug trafficking profits through the bank accounts of a yeshiva and a synagogue. Authorities accused the rabbis of financing the purchase of a multi-million dollar airplane for the drug traffickers. **AP - New York**

Jordan dismayed by US vote

Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan has said promises of $100m in US aid have been tarnished by Congress's vote to move the US embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. Jordanian newspapers quoted the crown prince as saying Washington had allocated as much money to moving the embassy as it had to Jordan's aid increase. **Reuters – Amman**

Hong Kong 香港 handover

Media faces stupefying choice at biggest ever gathering

Stephen Vines
Hong Kong

As Hong Kong's D-Day approaches, the authorities have unveiled a 9,000 square metre media centre, erected to house the biggest ever gathering of journalists for a single political event. More than 8,000 journalists are expected in the colony for the handover to Chinese rule on 30 June.

How this invasion of mild-mannered and patient people will be handled when push comes to much shoving, remains to be seen.

If the authorities have it their way, the reporters will spend most of their time attending more than 70 events organised for their benefit.

The world press is being invited to visit various factories, hear briefings on the financial system, the transport system, local government, trade and the "wetland habitat" of Mai Po, and join a tour of historic monuments. Only one of the briefings, in fact, is related to the handover of sovereignty.

The media representatives will be able to raise themselves from the stupor induced by these events by rummaging through the smart shoulder bags which have been given to all accredited reporters, and which contain everything from free camera film to T-shirts, baseball caps and coupons for free courier delivery.

The total cost of this largesse, which also extends to the provision of Internet services, computers, photocopiers and archive footage for television stations, is £700,000.

As is usual in Hong Kong, this sum was raised through commercial sponsorship.

Japan tops the list of countries sending the highest number of journalists, with applications from 1,300 people.

The United States is second with 1,000 and Britain, the outgoing colonial power, is third with 700. The BBC alone will be sending almost 200 journalists. Hong Kong's lively media will be represented by 2,800 journalists. Stephen Lam, the civil servant responsible for co-ordinating the handover ceremony, seems to have a policy of not answering controversial questions directly. So far, he has had a fairly easy ride. But the media torrent has not yet begun.

Fear of the future may spark exodus

Stephen Vines
Hong Kong

The last comprehensive survey of Hong Kong attitudes before the end of British rule shows that economic confidence continues to rise steadily, although political pessimism is also on the increase.

These findings are contained in the latest Hong Kong Transition Project survey, released yesterday and conducted this month, as part of a decade of research on changing attitudes towards the colony's transfer to Chinese rule.

Michael De Golyer, the project director, says the survey puts a new perspective on studies which show Hong Kong people are confident about the future and have few misgivings about Chinese rule. He believes the mood is increasingly one of feeling that there is no choice. "That's a lot different from being optimistic," he insists.

The survey identifies a growing gap in attitudes between men and women and the young and old. Older men are much more enthusiastic about the return to Chinese rule than women and young people.

Dr De Golyer believes the new government will be dominated by "older males, born in China. These are the people who have views very different from most other people in society".

The bottom line, according to the survey, is that a solid 40 per cent of the population would try to leave Hong Kong if unsuitable changes occurred under the new regime. Few people cite economic reasons as a reason for departure, while most identify issues connected to civil liberties.

The survey shows the majority of the population is content to wait and see what happens but Dr De Golyer predicts that "if China fails on this, it looks as though a very large percentage of the Hong Kong people will head out".

The survey is bad news for Hong Kong's new leadership. Governor Chris Patten enjoys a total satisfaction rating of 57 per cent, slightly down on the 62 per cent he scored in February. However, Hong Kong's new leader, Tung Chee-hwa, trails with a satisfaction rating of 50 per cent, down on the 53 per cent he got last February.

Dissatisfaction with the Chinese government is high, with 51 per cent of those questioned giving a negative verdict, though this is nothing like the 64 per cent dissatisfaction rating recorded in 1994.

The news for members of the China-appointed Provisional Legislature is worse. Only 7 per cent of those questioned thought it would "best protect Hong Kong people's interests". Confidence in the existing elected legislature, which will be abolished after China takes over, was much higher, with 47 per cent of respondents turning to its members for protection.

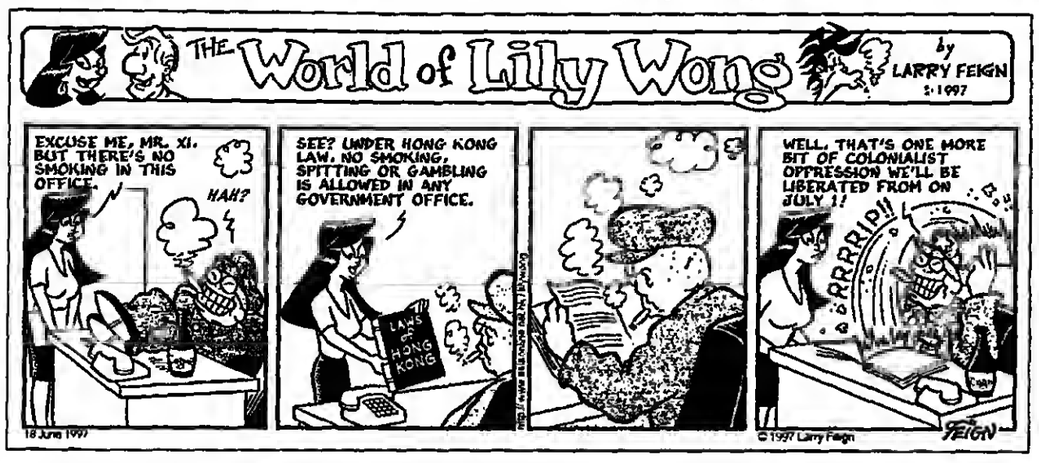
The new administration's decision to scrap all elected tiers of government was reinforced with an announcement that although members of local government would be allowed to remain in office, the pro-democracy group would be outnumbered by the appointment of 116 new members, most of whom support Peking.

This addition will make the largely powerless local government bodies even more likely to follow the wishes of the new administration. This was illustrated yesterday when the Urban Council turned down an application to hold a democracy rally on 1 July, the first day of Chinese rule, on the grounds that the space in one of the territory's biggest parks was required for a gathering of women's groups, even though they had applied later.

Little red songbook

Betty Tung, wife of Hong Kong's future leader Tung Chee-hwa, has unveiled a song "The Homecoming" composed to celebrate Hong Kong's reversion to Chinese rule.

"The beautiful sun of July shines forth on Hong Kong,
The pride of homecoming will forever be carved in my heart.
Every Chinese heart is filled with joy,
Waving goodbye with heads held high to the hundred years.
From tomorrow the future is limitless, let the sun shine everywhere, countless people united in one,
Hand in hand, for Hong Kong, unity is the direction
... Wisdom of the motherland, Hong Kong people's perseverance,
Together we realise one country, two systems."



Up in arms: A Black Watch soldier rehearsing a Highland dance over crossed swords in Hong Kong yesterday, in advance of a farewell military concert to mark the handover of the colony to China at the end of the month Photograph: Reuters

Hong Kong 香港 handover

New Shanghai swings to the old rhythms

Teresa Poole on the Chinese city which is reinventing itself under communism's glare

Swing city: Cocn, a Chinese jazz singer performing in a Shanghai cluh (above). The bustling metropolis (left), which is attracting ynung Hnng Kongers, is undergoing a cultural and material renaissance
Photographs:Magnum

At The Gap restaurant in central Shanghai, no expense has heen spared tn create the sort nf cosmopolitan atmosphere expected in China's style capital. The food may be strictly Chinese, hut there are red London phone boxes, walls covered with reproduction Gauguin murals, waitresses in American Country and Western checked shirts and private dining rooms where, surrounded by copies of Millais and Stubbs masterpieces, you can treat your husiness partners to a feast of Shanghai's famous "hairy crab" specialities fnr 10,000 yuan (£760) a throw (drinks extra).

The Filipino band offers Kool and the Gang cover versions, until at 9.30pm the resident troupe of sing-song girls – that potent symbol of nld Shanghai – takes to the stage to the tune nf "Alexander's Ragtime Band". Ask the supervisor how he would describe the style theme for this cultural minestrone, and he answers bizarrely: "It's Luxembourg."

Shanghai's vibrant spirit is back, with all its hlithe excesses, and the Shanghainese who can are making the most of it. As Hnng Kong prepares to revert to China on 1 July, Shanghai is doing its best to make sure that it can hold its own against its brash cousin. Once again the city is a magnet for the young and ambitious – including Hong Kongers, for whom it offers new opportunities.

Kenny Tang, 33, is typical of Hong Kong Shanghainese who are coming back to the city which their parents fled in 1949, when the Communists took control. This year he opened the YingYang jazz club in a basement which used to stnre electronic goods. "I want to make Shanghai like it was 60 years ago, a great city," he says. "But a great city needs culture and more artists."

Shanghai's new restaurants and bars are packed, and most of the customers are locals. But it is nnt just the night life which gives Shanghai the feel of a re-emerging world city; economic reform has spurred a cultural renaissance. Last autumn, the stunning new £45m Shanghai Museum npened in the centre of People's Square, in a Chinese-designed hulding which resembles an ancient hronze *ding* vessel. In December, it was the turn nf the new Shanghai Library, with storage for 10 million books. Under construction is a flamboyant French-designed opera house, which will be the largest in Asia, and a massive cantilevered sports stadium.

It has all happened in a belated rush. Until 1990, Shanghai was in the slow lane nf Chinese reform, overtaken by southern China. Then came the central government's decision to develop the Pudong zone on the east bank of Shanghai's river as China's future financial centre. Foreign investment poured in, and the constructinn boom has been so overwhelming that since 1991 the city has been sinking by half an inch a year, twice the rate during the Eighties. Here, too, Shanghai cannot help hut vie with Hong Kong, with an official "three-phase action plan" to be China's national financial centre before 2000, Asia's regional financial hub by 2005, and a global financial centre in 2010. There are currently abont 9,000 building projects.

The younger generation is thriving, with lives reinvented just as swiftly as the skyline. Lin Dongfu, 40, gave up teaching to be a reporter fnr *Real Estate Information*, and then found fame hosting a popular TV game show, *Test Your Talent*. Along the way he became the "voice" for Sean Connery and Gregory Peck when their films were dubbed into Chinese. His great passion now is his bar, Blues and Jazz. "Shanghai – we call it an international city, but we are still shnrt nf things," said Mr Lin. But less so than befnre. "Five years ago, there were no jazz hars in Shanghai." Now there are a dozen, and nnt only fnr foreigners. "Chinese also come; they cannot enjoy the music very deeply, hut in time . . ."

At the YingYang, Mr Tang agreed that Shanghainese preferred jazz to rock and roll. "Shanghai people are more sentimental and educated than Pekingers," he said. They are also hrimming with self-confidence, even arrogance. Professor Shen Weibin, a 60-year-old history professor at Fudan University, explained: "Shanghai people think that if you want to succeed, you have tn come to Shanghai for a while and be recognised here," said Professor Shen. Or as Mr Tang put it: "Shanghainese think that people from other Chinese cities are like peasants."

Success is again something to be flaunted – just like Hnng Kong. Jnining the Shanghai Race Cluh was the status symbol of nld Shanghai: nowadays it might be a $94,000 (£57,000) life membership nf the new Taiwan-financed Tnmson Golf Course where, according to the hype, the bunkers are filled not with sand hut with pnlverised white marble.

With this revival, however, has also come uncertainty. The excitement and glamour are back, but so are nld social problems. Mr Shen has witnessed the city's ups and downs and describes the mood of Shanghai people these days as "hope mixed with doubts".

The contradictinns are everywhere to see; a hardline municipal communist government is determined to maintain control over a capitalist eruptinn which is enriching half the population while throwing hundreds of thnusands of state enterprise workers nn tn the scrap heap.

A yawning wealth gap has opened up between those fashinnably dressed Shanghainese and the legions of newly sacked textile workers. Unemplnyment among the population of 14 millinn is chronic as near-bankrupt state enterprises jettison staff, especially nlder penple wbn find it difficult to adjust.

Zhu Junyi, director nf the Shanghai Labour Bureau, has admitted a further 750,000 city workers are expected to be laid nff in the next four years. Meanwhile, about three million migrant workers have flooded Into town, the work fodder for a city which is being rehuilt by men with spades.

Looming over these contrasts is the might of the Shanghai Communist government. Behind the superficial "anything goes" atmosphere, the nld apparatus is still firmly entrenched. The glistening 12-storey New World City department store, fnr instance, boasts nf itself as "the aircraft carrier in the shopping sea". But venture on tn the 9th floor administration area and the corridors are lined with doors marked "Communist Youth League", "Party Committee", "Trade Union Committee", and nn and on.

Freedom of thought is no more welcome in this neon-dazzled city than anywhere else in China, and over the past three years virtually every remaining Shanghai pro-democracy or human rights activist has been sent tn jail.

The city's cultural and material renaissance is taking place within strictly defined limits: while the spirit of Thirties Shanghai may be on the way back, there is little hope of it being any more democratic than its illustrinus predecessor.

John Knopp

John Knopp was an innovative electronics manufacturer who came to public notice as a principal in the "Aspire" consortium which, as the first step in a programme to put a British rocket into space, last October launched a seven-foot rocket 2,500 feet in the air from Thetford, Norfolk.

He was born at Wickford, Essex, in 1937, the seventh child of a seventh child. His father, a clarinettist in a military band, died when he was four, leaving the family, as he remembered, practically penniless and cold in a big house where if the allotment wasn't tended there was nothing to eat. He excelled at mathematics and science at primary school, passed the 11-plus examination and proceeded to a secondary technical school where he gained five O levels.

Here his considerable intellectual gifts became evident when he discovered an ingenious method of mental arithmetic which enabled him, in certain operations, to compete for speed and accuracy with handheld electronic calculators. This achievement won the admiration of his teacher and later made an outstanding parlour trick. Unfortunately he never recorded the Theory of Round Numbers, as he called the process, and the associated significance that he saw in the "magic number" of 137.

National Service saw Knopp in the RAF; he enlisted for a further 10 years as a radar technician, a period which gave him enormous pleasure. Apart from seeing activity in Cyprus and being parachuted into Suez, he also captained the service cricket team and played table tennis for England. More unusually, his quiet belief in the existence of UFOs stemmed from this time, when he witnessed innumerable instances on radar screens of fast-moving unexplained objects.

Leaving the RAF in 1965, he joined IBM, working for 10 years on mainframe computer maintenance. In 1975 he started making printed circuit boards in his garden shed for an electronic organ he was building for his daughter. This in turn led to the establishment, on 1 January 1976, of Knopp Electronic Services Ltd in Braintree, Essex, supplying printed circuit boards for the mass-market consumer electronics industry.

The company flourished and expansion was rapid, particularly between 1982 and 1986 when products such as television sets and telephones were manufactured more widely in the UK. Despite the company's gaining many supplier awards for the quality of products, by 1992 two factors indicated difficult times ahead. First, in an increasingly price-sensitive industry, the main competition was coming from Far Eastern manufacturers, primarily in Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia and India. Secondly, since the late 1980s, the increasing use of Integrated Circuits in consumer products was giving rise to a corresponding rise in demand for double-sided boards, where circuits are printed on both sides of a board instead of on one side. To move into double-sided board production would have required an investment of some £2m in new technology, an investment which was not possible.

Rather than face the declining future which led eventually to the dramatic decrease in numbers of PCB manufacturers in the UK, Knopp started developing an entirely new approach, which he called Etch Before Plate. It took him three years to bring the process to a fully reliable state. He then faced the socially complex hurdle of convincing a conservative industry of his credibility; millions of dollars, in one case, had already been spent by one of the largest corporations in research laboratories supported by a very substantial team of scientists only to conclude that such an approach was impossible.

The early 1990s were frustrating times for Knopp, but recognition gradually came as two of the more significant consumer electronics manufacturers in Europe tried and tested his method and verified its superiority.

Apart from achieving higher quality than competing processes, the new approach was clean environmentally inasmuch as no polluting chemicals are discharged. In an industry which is notoriously polluting, he was very proud that his factory had not discharged any effluent into the sewers or even been connected to them for several years; furthermore water requirements were minimal because the new process allowed all water to be treated and recycled.

Had he lived, a major environmental award would surely have come his way, because the Etch Before Plate process is now being licensed world-wide and being taken up by major consumer electronics manufacturers both in the UK and abroad.

In the life of John Knopp it is possible to see the continuance of the industrial revolution of past centuries where skills and intelligence count for far more than paper qualifications. Although without formal training, he maintained an active interest in many other scientific and engineering areas where he was never afraid to venture, latterly in the production of hydrogen for hydrogen-powered engines where he supported fundamental university research; in reproducing one of Kelvin's experiment in electrostatics which he christened his "thunderstorm experiment"; in providing space and financial support for the Aspire amateur rocket team at the behest of his friend the late Geoffrey Pardoe, former project manager of the Blue Streak Ballistic Missile project and President of the Royal Aeronautical Society, leading to successful launches of the *Aspire 2* rocket; and in the work of Len Head and others in high-voltage electron therapy, where Knopp's energy and initiatives opened up many new possibilities which in due course will be acknowledged.

In Braintree he will be remembered for his generous support of many charities, clubs and events, including the company concert brass band. For these activities and more he received local recognition in 1994 in a Business Excellence Award from Braintree District Council for Outstanding Community Support.

M. A. Laughton

John Frederick David Knopp, electronics manufacturer: born Wickford, Essex 28 June 1937; married 1963 Christine Tunnicliffe (one daughter); died Braintree, Essex 26 May 1997.

Knopp with two prototype rockets from the Aspire programme, 1996

Photograph: David

Professor Keble Sykes

When John (later Lord) Fulton moved from being a philosophy don at Balliol to take up the Principalship of the University College of Swansea in 1947, he set in train a number of processes that were to make that small young college (it was founded in 1922) one of the most dynamic university establishments in the country – it certainly had one of the best undergraduate chemistry programmes among the 30 or so universities in Britain.

One reason for Fulton's success was that he took infinite pains – and saw to it that his heads of department did also – in recruiting first-rate members of staff. One of the people he, and his inspired Professors of Chemistry, C.W. Shoppee and his predecessor, J.E. Coates, attracted to Swansea was Keble Sykes.

Before his departure from Oxford, Sykes was, from 1945 to 1948, a member of the trio of highly talented ICI Research Fellows in Sir Cyril Hinshelwood's Physical Chemistry Laboratory, the others being C.A. Coulson (later Rouse Ball Professor of Mathematics at Oxford) and J.W. Linnett (later Head of the Department of Physical Chemistry at Cambridge).

Sykes: phenomenal

At Oxford, Sykes had made a name for himself in Hinshelwood's laboratory by elucidating the mechanism of the gasification of carbon (coconut charcoals especially), and in particular he showed that the surface oxides formed when such solids burn at high temperature either in oxygen, steam or carbon dioxide, were identical kinetically and probably structurally. For this work he was awarded the Sir George Beilby Medal of the Society of Chemical Industry and Chemical Society. (One of his students at this time was a Miss Margaret Roberts who later achieved a certain eminence outside the field of chemistry.)

At Swansea he extended these studies and backed them up with adventures into the catalytic influences of alkali metal salts and transition metal oxides on the gasification of carbons generally. His theoretical formulations as to why such additives significantly decrease the temperature at which carbons oxidised led him, in turn, to predict sharp differences in reactivity between graphite and diamond, and also to undertake fundamental studies of other important industrial reactions such as the formation of volatile nickel carbonyl from metallic nickel and carbon monoxide. He and his early research students also investigated the fiendishly complicated interactions between carbon surfaces and S_2, H_2S and COS, and in so doing clarified the mechanism of the formation of CS_2.

He also branched out into the spectroscopic solution chemistry of transition metal ions, focusing especially on the importance of hydration shells in elementary reactions such as the oxidation of aqueous iodide by ferric ions. This work attracted the attention of Swedish solution chemists, such as L.G. Sillen, who were pre-eminent in that field.

But the impact of Sykes's sojourn at Swansea is not to be measured by his research endeavours, significant as those were. It was the phenomenal commitment to, and the intellectual authority that characterised, his undergraduate teaching that still make his former students (like me) marvel at what he managed to achieve in that exceptionally busy period of his life. Each year from 1948 to 1956, he gave 25 lectures on introductory chemical thermodynamics, 50 on advanced thermodynamics and statistical mechanics, 10 on radiochemistry and 25 on structural inorganic chemistry; in addition, he undertook six hours of laboratory supervision a week.

These were not untypical teaching loads for lecturers in provincial universities in those days. Sykes, however, went substantially further: he imported many of the admirable features of Oxbridge supervision into his teaching at Swansea. For example, once a week a class of some 150 first-year students were set three problems to solve. He marked all the scripts himself. Moreover, in his lectures to senior undergraduates, he took pains to advise them which original articles and specialised monographs to consult, and which not to. It was the kind of advice that he himself had been given at Queen's College, Oxford, where he was an outstanding scholar.

In 1956 he was appointed to the newly established Chair of Physical Chemistry at Queen Mary (now Queen Mary and Westfield) College, London University. The Head of the Department was then Professor Michael Dewar, and when he departed to the United States in 1959 Keble Sykes took up the reins and guided the department until 1978, when he became (sole) Vice-Principal, working closely and fruitfully with the Principal, Sir James Menter.

At QMC, Sykes soon established a thriving research group. His laboratory was housed in a wooden hut clad with corrugated iron, and there was a disconcerting tendency for rain to penetrate the roof and run down the wall beside the main fuse-box. Nevertheless, work on gas-solid reactions and on ionic solutions prospered. He continued his excellent teaching, and generations of students there, like those who listened to him in Swansea, benefited enormously from his deep understanding of chemical phenomena. They were also impressed by his modesty, humility and general human decency.

Both in retrospect, and at the time, it was often said, "Keble Sykes is a gentleman." The respect he elicited endeared him to all his colleagues at QMC, where he served as Dean of the Faculty of Science (1970-73), as Vice-Principal from 1978 until his retirement in 1986, and as chairman of many key committees and working parties including the University Grants Committee's Physical Sciences Sub-Committee. He was subsequently elected an Honorary Fellow of the college.

He also contributed much to the Chemical Society of London. He edited the society's special publication on *Stability Constants*, a reflection of his expertise in the subject of ionic solutions. He served as Honorary Secretary from 1960 to 1966, as Vice-President from 1966 to 1969, as a member of Council of the successor body, the Royal Society of Chemistry, from 1977 to 1980, as Chairman of the Publications and Information Board, the Chemistry in Britain Committee and the Benevolent Fund Committee.

Despite all these commitments, a full family life, wide outside interests ranging from gardening to photography and walking to DIY, as well as keen membership of the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution, he found time to attend, with his wife Margaret – whom he met when they were lecturers in Swansea – every college function (public lectures, carol services, charter week concerts, plays, graduate receptions, international evenings and dances) for 30 years in Queen Mary College. The fact that Queen Mary and Westfield has now such an enterprising and well-equipped Department of Chemistry owes a great deal to the devotion and far-sightedness of this kindly and extraordinarily able man.

John Menrig Thomas

Keble Watson Sykes, chemist: born 7 January 1921; Lecturer in Chemistry, University College of Swansea, University of Wales 1948-51, Senior Lecturer 1951-56; Professor of Physical Chemistry, Queen Mary (later Queen Mary and Westfield) College, London 1956-86, Head of Chemistry Department 1959-78, Dean, Faculty of Science 1970-73, Vice-Principal 1978-86; married 1950 Margaret Forsyth (three daughters, and one son deceased); died 24 May 1997.

Richard Jaeckel

Blond, blue-eyed and stocky, the baby-faced Richard Jaeckel was a prolific character actor who specialised in ebullient, pugnacious youths, notably in war films and westerns.

Seemingly ageless, when he played the devious outlaw who tries to out-gun John Wayne in *Chisum* in 1970 he seemed little older than as the over-confident youngster who attempted to out-draw Gregory Peck in *The Gunfighter* 20 years earlier. An actor popular with the public and within the profession, Jaeckel was rarely out of work in a 54-year career. Nominated for an Oscar for his supporting role in *Sometimes a Great Notion* (1971), he more recently had a recurring role in the television series *Baywatch*.

Born in Long Beach, New York, in 1926, he was working in the 20th Century-Fox mailroom when, in story-book fashion, he was selected to play a featured role in the studio's major war movie *Guadalcanal Diary* (1943). As an inexperienced teenage marine (nicknamed "Chicken") who distinguishes himself in battle, Jaeckel made a strong impression in this popular adaptation of Richard Tregaskis' book ("Richard Jaeckel scores as a downy-faced juvenile," said *Variety*). He played another serviceman, this time a young pilot on an aircraft carrier, in Henry Hathaway's fine account of events leading to the Battle of Midway, *Wing and a Prayer* (1944), before spending four years in the US Navy.

Returning to Hollywood in 1948, he settled into steady employment in tough roles, as a delinquent in *City Across the River* (1949), soldiers in *Sands of Iwo Jima* and *Battleground* (both 1949) and cowboys in *Wyoming Mail* and *The Gunfighter* (both 1950). In the latter, Henry King's classic study of a notorious gunfighter's futile attempt to discard his reputation and settle down, Jaeckel had one of his most memorable vignettes as the cocky youngster who sets off a tragic chain of events when, determined to prove himself faster with the gun than Johnny Ringo (Gregory Peck), he misguidedly provokes the gunfighter into a duel.

In Daniel Mann's *Come Back, Little Sheba* (1952), he had a prime role as a college boy with sex on his mind who flirts agressively with the nubile Terry Moore and invokes the jealousy of her landlord (Burt Lancaster). At this time he seemed on the verge of stardom, but his stature and boyish appearance worked against him and he settled into a career of prominent but secondary roles in such action fare as *Apache Ambush* (1955), *Cowboy* (1955) and *The Naked and the Dead* (1958).

Two of the his finest films during this period were Robert Aldrich's uncompromising picture of corruption and incompetence within the military, *Attack!* (1956), in which Jaeckel was a private under the command of a cowardly captain, and Delmer Daves' taut western *3:10 to Yuma* (1957), in which Jaeckel was an outlaw determined to rescue a captured gang-leader (Glenn Ford) before he can be transported by train to the big city and justice.

In 1967 Jaeckel played the no-nonsense sergeant who helps convert a motley bunch of military criminals into a viable fighting force in Aldrich's violent and enormously successful *The Dirty Dozen*, the biggest-grossing film of the year. Jaeckel's Sergeant Howren was one of the few characters to survive the film, and he recreated the role in the sequel made for television, *The Dirty Dozen: The Next Mission* (1985).

In the generally disappointing *Sometimes a Great Notion* (1971, released in the UK as *Never Give an Inch*), directed by Paul Newman and based on Ken Kesey's novel about a family of loggers in Oregon, Jaeckel featured in one of the screen's most memorable and harrowing death scenes. Pinned underwater by a fallen tree, he slowly drowns as Newman desperately tries to free him. Despite the starry cast of Newman, Henry Fonda and Lee Remick, it was Jaeckel whose performance was unanimously lauded as the best thing in the film and he was nominated for an Academy Award as Best Supporting Actor.

Further film roles included *Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid* (1973), *Twilight's Last Gleaming* (1978), *Starman* (1985) and *Delta Force 2* (1990), but Jaeckel's later work was primarily in television. He starred in the series *Frontier Circus* (1961) with John Derek and Chill Wills, and as guest star on countless shows, including *Bonanza*, *Wagon Train*, *Perry Mason*, *Gunsmoke*, *Have Gun Will Travel* and *Mission Impossible*. In the mid-Eighties he had a role as Lt Quirk in the series *Spenser: For Hire*, and in 1991 and 1992, at last beginning to look his age, he played in *Baywatch* as Lt Ben Edwards, the grizzled veteran who co-ordinates rescue activity.

Tom Vallance

Richard Jaeckel, actor: born Long Beach, New York 10 October 1926; married (two sons); died Woodland Hills, California 14 June 1997.

Jaeckel in *Frontier Circus*, 1961

Births, Marriages & Deaths

BIRTHS

NATUSCH: Kate and Douglas are pleased to announce that their daughter Grace Alice was born at 1am on Sunday 15 June, at Wythenshawe Hospital, Manchester.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

HARTLEY: Sir Frank, CBE DSc PhD FRSC FRPharmS FIC Hon FRCP Hon FRCS Hon FRSC Hon LLD. Dean of the School of Pharmacy 1962-76, Vice-Chancellor of the University of London 1976-78. There will be a Memorial Service for Sir Frank Hartley on Wednesday 9 July 1997 at St George's Church, Bloomsbury Way, Bloomsbury, London WC1, commencing at 2.30pm. For further information please telephone the Clerk's Office, The School of Pharmacy, 0171-753 5816.

For GAZETTE, telephone 0171-293 2012.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Prince of Wales attends a reception for the Eurasian Ministerial Conference at the Banqueting House, London SW1. The Princess Royal, President, Royal Yachting Association, attends a Council Meeting at the Royal Thames Yacht Club, London SW1. The Duchess of Gloucester, accompanied by The Duke of Gloucester, opens "The Town of Denmark" exhibition at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh, and attends an evening preview of the Flower Show at the Royal Highland Centre, Edinburgh, in aid of the Royal Scottish Agricultural Benevolent Institution. The Duke of Kent, President, chairs the quarterly meeting of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Maidenhead, Berkshire, and, as Royal Fellow, attends the Royal Society's "New Frontiers in Science" Exhibition, London SW1.

Changing of the Guard

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am. The Company of Grenadiers mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.45am, band provided by the Coldstream Guards.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr T. J. Oades and Miss J. M. Read

The engagement is announced between Tim, son of the late Mr John Oades and of Mrs T. King, of Brentford, Middlesex, and Julianne, younger daughter of Mrs Mary Kenny, of Osterley, Middlesex.

Birthdays

Miss Eva Bartok, actress, 68; Mr Peter Barty, television and film producer, 66; Mr James Bishop, former Editor-in-chief, Illustrated London News Publications, 68; Mr Michael Blakemore, freelance theatre director, 69; Mr Ian Carmichael, actor, 77; Mr Carl de Winter, former secretary-general, Federation of British Artists, 63; Mr Ian Hargreaves, Editor, *New Statesman*, 46; Miss Patricia Hutchinson, former ambassador to Uruguay, 71; Mr Roy Jackson, former assistant general secretary, TUC, 69; Mr John Kelsall, Headmaster, Brentwood School, 54; General Sir Brian Kenny, Governor, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, 63; Sir Dennis Landau, former chief executive, CWS, 70; Mr Paul Mayersberg, novelist and scriptwriter, 56; Sir Paul McCartney, songwriter, 55; Miss Alison Moyet, singer, 36; Sir Peter Phillips, former chairman, AB Electronics, 67; Miss Isabella Rossellini, actress, 45; Miss Delia Smith, cook, 56.

Anniversaries

Births: Robert Stewart, Viscount Castlereagh, second Marquess of Londonderry, statesman, 1769; Sammy Cahn (Samuel Cohen), lyricist, 1914. Deaths: Roald Amundsen, explorer, lost in the Arctic 1928; Douglas Robert Jardine, cricketer, 1958; Ethel Barrymore, actress, 1959. On this day: the English were defeated by the French under Joan of Arc at the Battle of Patay, 1429; the Duke of Wellington defeated the French under Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo, 1815; Waterloo Bridge over the Thames in London opened, 1817; Adolf Hitler's book *Mein Kampf* was published, 1925. Today is the Feast Day of St Amandus of Bordeaux, St Elizabeth of Schonau, Saints Gregory, Demetrius and Calogerus and Saints Mark and Marcellian.

Lectures

National Gallery: Alexander Sturgis, "Pictures in Pictures (III): Flemish, *Cognoscenti in a Room Hung with Pictures*", 1pm.

Victoria and Albert Museum: Louise Leates, "17th and 18th-century Art in Holland: Delftware, glass and silver", 2.30pm; Hilary Williams, "The London of John Nash", 7.15pm (tickets required).

Tate Gallery: Anthony Bailey, "Turner: the man", 6.30pm.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

The Annual General Meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (UK Branch) was held yesterday in the House of Commons, London SW1. Miss Betty Boothroyd MP, Speaker of the House of Commons, presided.

Tariff element in sentences on child murderers wrong

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, ex parte Venables; Regina v Same, ex parte Thompson; House of Lords (Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Steyn, Lord Hope of Craighead) **12 June 1997**

LAW REPORT

18 June 1997

A policy whereby the Home Secretary set an inflexible tariff period to be served by a child sentenced to detention during Her Majesty's pleasure was unlawful. In deciding on the tariff period, it was legitimate for the Home Secretary to take account of public concern of a general nature, but not of public clamour directed towards the decision in a particular case.

The House of Lords, Lord Goff and Lord Lloyd dissenting, allowed cross-appeals by the applicants, and Lord Lloyd dissenting, dismissed the appeal of the Home Secretary.

Jon Venables and Robert Thompson, both aged 11, were convicted of the murder of the two-year-old James Bulger. They were aged 10 at the time of the murder. They were sentenced to be detained during Her Majesty's pleasure pursuant to section 53(1) of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933. In his report to the Home Secretary, the trial judge recommended that the actual length of detention necessary to meet the requirements of the "penal element" or "tariff" should be eight years. The Lord Chief Justice advised the Home Secretary that it should be increased to 10 years.

The Home Secretary, acting pursuant to his discretion under section 35 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991 and a policy statement dated 27 July 1993, decided that the penal element should be increased to 15 years. In his decision letters and other correspondence with the applicants' solicitors it was stated that he had had regard *inter alia* to public concern about the case, evidenced by petitions urging that the two boys should be detained for life or for a minimum of 25 years, and coupons cut from a popular newspaper, together with letters, demanding a life tariff. The Divisional Court quashed the Home Secretary's decisions, and his appeal to the Court of Appeal failed.

David Pannick QC and Mark Shaw (Treasury Solicitor) for the Home Secretary; Edward Fitzgerald QC and Ben Emmerson (Gingers, Sheffield) for Venables; Brian Hugo QC and Julian Nutter (Paul Rogers & Co, Liverpool) for Thompson.

Lord Browne-Wilkinson said that the Home Secretary had adopted a tariff policy in exercising his discretion whether to release adults who had been sentenced to life imprisonment. Having received advice from the trial judge and the Lord Chief Justice he made his own decision as to the minimum period to be served to satisfy the elements of retribution and deterrence. That was the tariff period.

The policy provided that, until three years before the tariff period expired, the Home Secretary would not refer the case to the Parole Board. Moreover, until the tariff period had expired, he would not exercise his discretion to release on licence. In a statement to Parliament on 27 July 1993 the Home Secretary had made clear that the tariff system applied to children sentenced to detention during Her Majesty's pleasure as it did to adult murderers.

The sentence of detention during Her Majesty's pleasure was not the same as a life sentence passed on an adult prisoner. In setting the tariff of 15 years for the applicants the Home Secretary was applying an unlawful policy. The unlawfulness lay in adopting a policy which totally excluded from consideration during the tariff period factors (i.e. their progress and development) necessary to determine whether release from detention would be in the interests of the welfare of the applicants.

Such welfare was one of the factors which the Home Secretary had to take into account in deciding from time to time how long the applicant should be detained. That did not mean that in relation to children detained during Her Majesty's pleasure any policy based on a tariff would be unlawful, but it would have to be sufficiently flexible to enable the Home Secretary to take into account the progress of the child and his development. In relation to children the factors of retribution, deterrence and risk were not the only relevant factors: the welfare of the child was also a relevant factor.

Lord Goff said that the Home Secretary, in fixing the penal element of a life sentence or a sentence of detention during Her Majesty's pleasure, was exercising a function closely analogous to a judge's sentencing function. He was under a duty to act within the same constraints as a judge when exercising the sentencing function.

In considering whether he had been entitled to have regard to the petitions and other material referred to in his decision letters, a distinction should be drawn between public concern of a general nature with regard to, for example, the need to punish the perpetrators of certain prevalent offences, and public clamour that a particular offender should be singled out for severe punishment. It was legitimate for a sentencing authority to take the former into account, but not the latter, and the Home Secretary had erred in the present case.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

The political challenge of another Irish outrage

Compare and contrast. In Amsterdam the leaders of countries locked for centuries in bitter strife – Catholics and Protestants, old enemies, ideological rivals – come together to talk, debate, win some, lose some. No one can say the recent history of European union has been especially edifying but at its core shines a big, bright and supremely attractive idea: peace. History is not all-determining.

At the same time, on Europe's periphery, atavistic nationalism claims two more victims. In Lurgan two community policemen were killed, murdered by an organisation which seems to have no idea of or interest in that wider Europe where states and sovereignties are in flux, where national borders are – for most practical purposes – disappearing. In that wider view, history long ago passed by the IRA and its political party Sinn Fein. No conceivable 21st-century future for Ulster or for the Republic of Ireland or indeed – notionally – for an island of Ireland as a single political entity contains their methods, their ideas or their bloody allegiances.

But none of that means the IRA is going to fade away, at least in the short to medium run; nor does it mean that Sinn Fein's support is going suddenly to evaporate on the dreary Catholic estates of Belfast or Londonderry. So after the shootings in Lurgan the question becomes: is there a case for talking to the terrorist nationalists and their political henchmen, even if there is every suspicion that "peace" (in that irenic sense detectable in Amsterdam) is something their very identity forbids. The answer from London (delivered by Tony Blair in Amsterdam) was no, at least for the time being. From Washington it was "probably not" and from Dublin (from prime minister-designate Ahern, who was scheduled to see Gerry Adams tomorrow) "maybe". We say that one way or another the talking has to go on. If stopped now, as a mark of respect for those murdered RUC officers, it has to be resumed. That is for one simple reason: fewer people are likely to be killed or harmed while the extremists are included, however marginally, in the conversation about Northern Ireland's future.

There is no point pretending that talking has achieved much so far. If the all-party talks which formally opened last June were a train, it would still be creeping along the departure platform, people still hanging out of the doors. And that is with Sinn Fein still kicking around on the concourse.

And now the marching season approaches. Mo Mowlam says sincerely that she will leave no stone unturned in seeking to persuade marchers and estate residents to compromise, negotiate, agree. But her interlocutors are not the people on the ground. They remain deaf to her pleas. On the Garvachy Road they have already been persuaded by Sinn Fein to make the march a flashpoint. In the Orange lodges they are determined, once again, to demonstrate their historical enthralment, regardless of cost.

By early July the Blair government, which offered a real opportunity for Northern Ireland, could be reduced to administering a state of siege. There is little point in regretting lost opportunity – and yet … The appointment of Ms Mowlam, the new Prime Minister's fresh face, the British government's willingness to talk, so much might have been accomplished. But such "what ifs" imply there was a desire on the part of the nationalist extremists to give up, even temporarily, the "armed struggle".

As things are turning out, the Blair government's peaceful intent served as a useful cover for Sinn Fein in the Northern Irish local and the Republic's general elections. The tactic worked, a ballot paper in one hand and a gun in the other. There is a crude sense in which the trigger pulled in Lurgan on Monday was pulled in some metaphorical sense by all those thousands of voters who elected Martin McGuinness and Gerry Adams as MPs and, in the Irish election, Caoimhghin O'Caolain into the Dail. At some point Republican voters have to take responsibility for the violence committed in response to their support.

The challenge facing Ms Mowlam, and Tony Blair behind her, is to fight the fires this summer and manage the inevitable security crises, while reserving some space, some energy, some hope for the resumption of politics. However hot, the season of marches and mayhem will eventually end. The question will again be: can there be a peace process without the participation of the extremist nationalists? The answer is no. But what is the minimum entry ticket, one that is politically acceptable in London let alone for the Unionists in Belfast? It is, and has to be, a cease-fire, accompanied by long-term professions of peaceful intent by Messrs McGuinness and Adams. It will not be acceptable to have that interspersed with bombing and shooting, and it must never become acceptable.

What kind of talks? Ms Mowlam must at least consider abandoning the 1996 effort, agenda-less after a year, and think about some alternative. One idea is to use the Dayton, Ohio proceedings which led to Bosnian peace as a model – to convene a group of "experts", get them to hammer out the basic accord then confront sectional chiefs with their work. But why should the Unionists buy a Dayton accord when they scarcely accepted Mitchell let alone the North compromise on marching? On the Dayton analogy, at some point the conference chair has to twist arms, some of them hard. That would probably mean Tony Blair having to cajole the Unionists – an evil fate for a Labour prime minister with so much else to strive for and accomplish away from the dark Ulster mire.

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Shrinking lunch, expanding waist

Once, so government propaganda films reported, the workforce downed tools at 12.30pm to troop along to the canteen for meat, two veg and pudding – serenaded by *Workers' Playtime* on the radio. Nowadays, it's all go. Lunch is suspended. A survey out today says a third of working women never stop for a midday break. The average worker takes only 33 minutes for lunch and since they spend only £1.45 on their food, they are unlikely to be eating much more than a sandwich. These figures help explain why productivity increases each year. But it leaves a puzzle. If we are consuming less at lunch-time, how is it that waist sizes are still rising? Do we stuff ourselves silly at breakfast, or gorge in front of the telly all evening? It's a mystery.

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Puritans in pursuit of fox-hunters

Sir: Thank you for publishing Polly Toynbee's sensible and well reasoned article against the banning of fox-hunting ("Labour should go to earth on fox-hunting", 16 June).

As a fox-hunter I think I can say that Labour will be unpleasantly surprised by the amount of anger and resentment that this bill will arouse among a very large number of people, not all of them directly involved in hunting. The knock-on effect of a ban will be appalling and in any case it is an unwarranted intrusion into people's private lives, activities and opinions that smacks of the worst sort of puritanism. I think it a very great pity that they have seen fit to address this issue now, as it detracts from the record of a government that so far in its short life has shown itself to be both willing and able to address really important matters.

I say that with the grudging admiration of one who didn't even vote for them, and here they are caving in to the first shove from a pressure group. It doesn't show them in a good light. They should think again.

Mrs A SPURRIER
Litton Cheney, Dorset

Sir: To Polly Toynbee's excellent article on fox-hunting only two points need to be added:

1. There are rural communities for which hunting, as well as supplying an important source of revenue and employment (custom in hotels, pubs, B&B, the breeding and care of horses and hounds, jobs for hunt staff), also performs a valuable social function, providing free entertainment to huge numbers of foot followers as well as sport for the riders. Such communities would suffer both economically and socially from a ban and, no doubt, be left feeling alienated by the urban-dominated concerns of current MPs.

2. The death of the hunted fox may be violent but the diseased, mangy, lingering demise of those that survive to perish from natural causes is infinitely worse.

FERNANDA PIRIE
London SW8

Sir: Of the huge majority of MPs to vote in favour of a total ban on handguns I wonder how *many* will vote against a ban on fox-hunting with hounds. After all, if this type of hunting does stop, the almost certain result will be a huge increase in shotgun ownership in rural areas in order to control the fox population.

Sadly I think that there are those in Parliament who see the right of a fox to savage, but never be savaged, as somehow above all other issues. What the people who oppose the use of hounds do not understand is that the world of wildlife or nature is a much more violent world than that of human civilisation.

Wildlife is largely about animals ripping each other apart, and fox numbers have been kept down in that way – nature's way – long before the involvement of humans. Anyway, much more painful ways of killing these animals are used where hunting is already banned. One such method is hours of agonising entrapment followed by shooting.

P F KEVAN
London N8

Sir: Polly Toynbee has got it wrong about fox-hunting. Fishing is not the equivalent working class bloodsport. It is the baiting of badgers, bulls or bears, and dog and cock-fighting, and they have been banned for years, probably because, unlike fox-hunting, they have not had influential friends to defend them.

Some intensive farming practices are indeed cruel, but what justification is that for savaging live foxes to death?

If a thing is wrong, it's wrong, and I hope Parliament ignores Ms Toynbee's red herring and proscribes this ugly relic whose surface glamour masks its vicious reality.

JAMES SCOTT
Milton Keynes

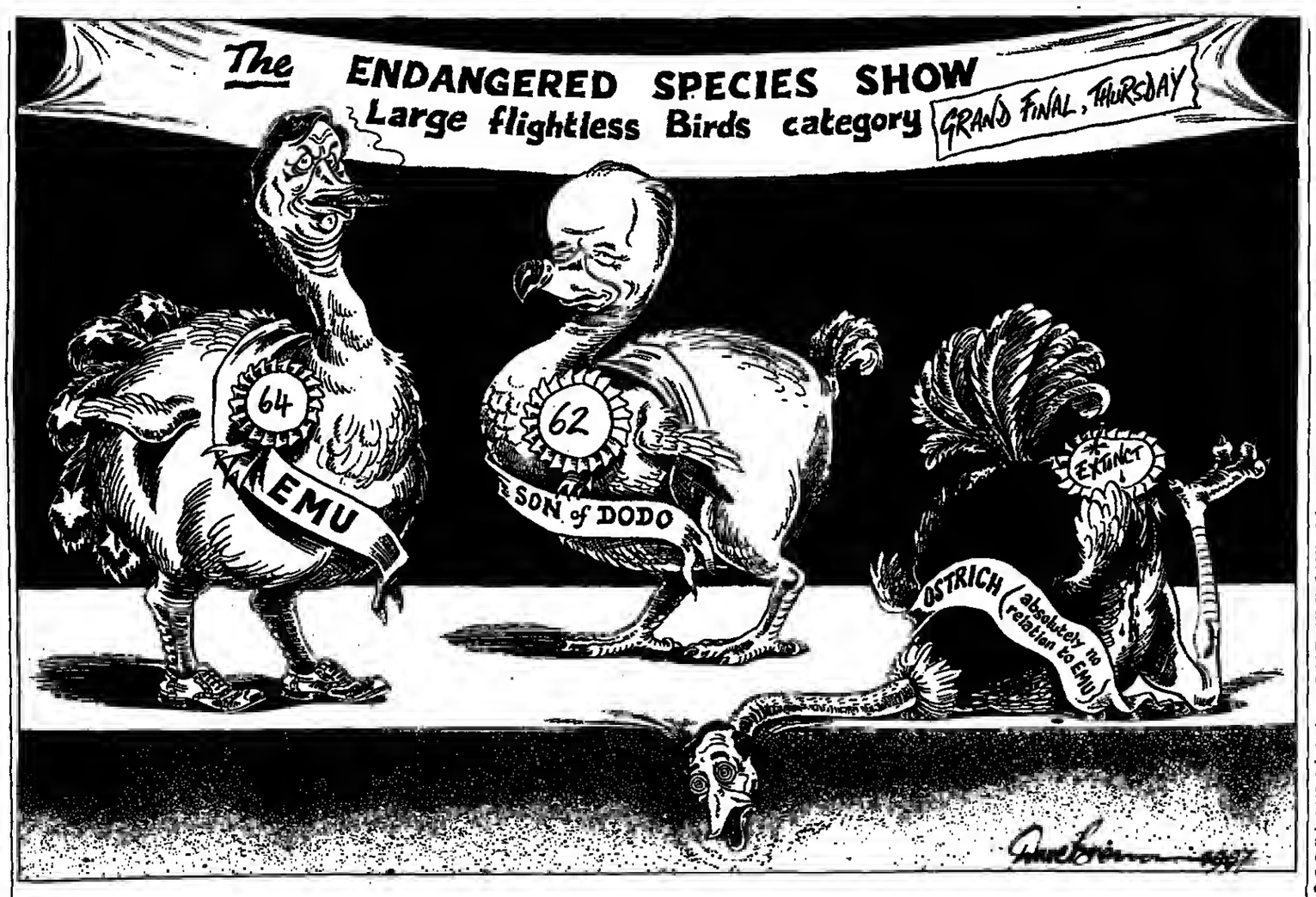
Sir: Polly Toynbee's amusing monologue uses far too many euphemisms. Make no mistake, ripping to pieces any animal is cruel, sadistic and tells a little too much about the society in which we live. There is an alternative to this barbaric so-called sport – drag-hunting. An alternative which allows "rural pleasure" without the distasteful murder of the fox. Surely a compromise the hunting lobby can stomach?

PAUL BELL
Leamington Spa, Warwickshire

Sir: When will those in opposition, and the media, stop comparing hunting with hounds to bear-baiting, cock-fighting, and dog-fighting.

These so-called "sports", in which the hapless victim had no possibility of escape, were nothing more than the animal equivalent of boxing: an equally unattractive "sport" which must eventually be banned by a caring, socialist state.

NICHOLAS KESTER
Marden, Kent



Tribal peoples are just like us

Sir: Reading your piece about the Dayaks in Saturday's "Letter From the Editor" (14 June) was a bit like being cornered by a saloon bar philosopher. With its bluff-good-sensical tone (*Hell's Teeth … "cultural practices" as I should apparently call them … political correctness carried far beyond satire*) it neatly exemplified the unconsidered prejudice that Stephen Cory (letter, 13 June) was criticising.

You say: "Where once ignorant Europeans thought tribal peoples little better than monkeys, some breast-beating campaigners are now close to an inverted error, thinking of surviving indigenous peoples as ecological angels, more virtuous than fallen, corrupt or 'civilised' peoples." In fact, both these apparently contradictory views are part of the same European tradition, which goes back at least as far as the late Middle Ages, when European explorers regularly reported encountering "gentle" people in an "earthly paradise" as well as "men living like beasts". The link between these two images of the "savage" is that they both see tribal peoples as versions of our (European) past – either a Golden Age from which we have lapsed, or a bestial state from which we have risen.

The most recent incarnation of this notion is the anthropological belief, first expressed by Edward B Tylor in the 1880s, that the "savage state in some measure represents an early condition of mankind, out of which the higher culture has gradually been developed or evolved". It is this evolutionary model which you seem unquestioningly to accept, with your references to archaeology and your assertion that "there is such a thing as progress. And it does involve giving up cannibalism."

If "there is such a thing as progress" it doesn't seem to have prevented us outdoing our ancestors in brutality during the 20th century. Arguably the cruellest and most destructive regimes in history, Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia, both emerged in "advanced" Europe during the past 80 years. Both of them, moreover, used evolutionary ideologies – one racial, the other historical – to justify the murder of millions of biological or social "undesirables".

Our tendency to see tribal peoples simply as anachronistic remnants of our own past (either idyllic or bestial) is unhealthy both for us and for them. It is infantile projection to say that we are behaving like "sadistic tribal killers" when we are brutal – all we are really doing is behaving like ourselves – or, conversely, to think that we are tapping into some timeless ancestral nature-wisdom when we join Greenpeace. Tribal peoples are not emblems of our lost innocence or our suppressed savagery; they are our contemporaries (and among the most peaceful and least destructive communities in the world). Like us, they are full, complex human beings, acting according to their experience and understanding of the universe and capable of cruelty and generosity, stupidity and hatred, genius and heroism.

JAMES WILSON
Bristol

Sir: On the day (9 June) that you reported on allegations of cannibalism among the Dayaks, I chanced to be reading Alfred Russel Wallace's *The Malay Archipelago* (1869). His experience in Borneo led him to a high opinion of the Dayaks – above the Malays in mental capacity and undoubtedly superior in moral character. He found them truthful, honest, temperate in food and drink, despite oppression by their Malay and Chinese neighbours.

He gives many examples of their harmonious relationship with their environment and their ingenuity in construction, particularly in their use of bamboo. In these opinions he appeared to have the support of Sir James Brooke, Rajah of Sarawak, and it seems a long way from the impression given by your reports.

FRANK PENFOLD
Burpham, West Sussex

Freudian PR

Sir: I enjoyed Rosie Millard's piece on the Freud clan, whose talent for publicity is indeed remarkable (16 June). In this context it is interesting to note that Edward Bernays, the American inventor of public relations as a business discipline, was Sigmund's nephew.

Professor JAMES LINDESAY
Edith Weston, Rutland

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

Bra Wars blaze out anew

Sir: Time to launch a salvo into the Bra Wars ("Breast beating and tantrums in ad land", 12 June).

Despite the claims of Trevor Beattie, Sam Hurford and Murray Partridge with regard to the origin of the Wonderbra "Hello Boys" advertising campaign, one need look no further than Mel Brooks. His film *Blazing Saddles* (1974) contains a scene where Brooks, as the corrupt Governor William J Le Petomane, is asked to sign a bill to "snatch 200,000 acres of Indian Territory".

He suddenly turns to his bikini-clad secretary, seated alongside him, peers deeply into her cavernous cleavage and says: "Hello, boys … Have a good night's rest?… I missed you." This leaves the claims of the aforementioned advertising creatives totally without support. Sorry, boys.

RAYMOND CHRISTODOULOU
London W2

Nuclear leaks

Sir: According to Open University figures, radio-isotopes of xenon and krypton entered the environment following the Three Mile Island nuclear accident (report, 3 June; letter, 13 June).

In fact there have been three severe accidents involving radiation release. To Chernobyl and Three Mile Island must be added the Windscale reactor fire in October 1957, which released iodine 131, krypton 85 and polonium 210 into the environment.

GRANT HOLE
Hertford

How to get bags on to the bus

Sir: The Government encourages us to leave our cars at home in favour of public transport. Among several related initiatives is the opening of new "park and ride" schemes for our town centres. Most of those passengers will be shoppers faced with the task of getting their purchases on and off the buses and into their cars.

In the 1950s sea transport of general goods was revolutionised by the invention of the container, a standard sized box which would fit into any vessel designed to carry it. Soon most general cargo vessels had been suitably adapted or built to carry containers and ports had been equipped to handle them expeditiously, and with minimum effort.

Shopping bags and trolleys come in every conceivable size and shape, most are awkward to handle and none is designed to be compatible with our public transport systems. If passengers could purchase from a limited range of standard-sized bags and trolleys, and buses and trains were designed specifically to accommodate them, for instance in special racks at platform or road level, travel with luggage on public transport could be transformed.

R H J P HARVEY
Colchester

Lottery cash for redundancies

Sir: Anthony Bevins and David Lister mistakenly claim that the Arts Council of England has made a "discreet change" in its guidance on the use of Lottery money ("Lottery funds Royal Opera pay-offs", 16 June).

The article states that we have adopted a "new interpretation" in order to fund redundancies caused by Lottery-related closures. This is not so. The Arts Council's published guidance clearly states that "redundancy costs created by closure" are allowable. This has always been the case. Indeed, some lottery funded projects have already received money as a contribution to redundancy costs.

Redundancies are always regrettable. However, in the case of the Royal Opera House, this option will be considerably more economical than the alternative of continuing to fund jobs which will not be required while the theatre is closed. In the long-term, of course, the Lottery is a major creator of employment. Nearly 18,000 jobs have been generated in its first 18 months.

GRAHAM DEVLIN
Acting Secretary-General
The Arts Council of England
London SW1

Messy grammar

Sir: Myself, I like the idea of a Tuareg daintily wiping his/her feet with a toe-rag after treading grapes, but I fear Walter Roberts ("Grammarians weep! The bell tolls for 'whom' ", 14 June) is way off beam as the true derivation is quite different and far smellier/more smelly.

Coarse rags made from tow-coloured flax or jute were commonly used a century or more ago to clear up the most revolting mess – in hospitals and prisons for example; hence the term "filthy little tow-rag" to describe someone of stomach-turning vileness.

JOHN APPLETON
Northampton

lecture

Sexy, moral and packing a pistol

Sara Paretsky, the creator of the best-selling feminist detective V I (Victoria) Warshawski, describes how she came to create her feisty heroine

To grow up white in America in the 1950s was to enjoy education, housing, food, and safety in a measure not accessible to much of the rest of the world. I am well aware that I speak from a position of considerable privilege.

At the same time, I speak after years of struggle to find a voice. In that distant Eden we little girls knew we were destined to be mommies. We didn't worry about careers. Those of us planning a university education knew we were studying not for our own benefit, but to make us better wives and mothers (indeed, when Yale University first opened its doors to women in 1965, its president assured horrified alums that Yale's sole aim was to prepare women to become better wives and mothers by giving them the best education America could provide).

When I was a child, while boys planned lives as firefighters or cowboys, we girls dreamed of our weddings. When Roxanne Farrell "had to get married" in our sophomore year of high school, to us the most tawdry part was that she bought her trousseau at Woolworth's. Good girls who waited until they graduated from high school or college bought fancy bridalwear at the Plaza in Kansas City.

The books we read supported the idea of marriage as our only real goal. That was certainly the important message in that most enduring children's book, *Little Women*. At the end of *Little Women*, Jo, who is rebellious and ambitious in the early part of the book, is married. The mother of two small sons, she is running a boy's boarding school in Aunt March's old home and renounces her adolescent dream of becoming a great writer. She says to Marmee and her sisters:

"The life I wanted then seems selfish, lonely, and cold to me now. I haven't given up the hope that I may write a good book yet, but I can wait..."

In Jo March, the rebellious female is tamed and turned into a servant of the male – a reflection of Louisa May Alcott's own life, spent in an unhappy servitude to her father.

Crime fiction throughout much of this century supported the values of America's golden age. Good girls were chaste, bad girls were not. Chaste girls could not act effectively. Unchaste girls could, but were only able to commit evil deeds.

Notable 20th century heroines include Carmen Sternwood of *The Big Sleep*. The first time Carmen sees Philip Marlowe, in the hallway of her father's house, she engages in a little sexual byplay.

Marlowe tells us:

[S]he turned her body slowly and lithely, without lifting her feet. Her hands dropped limp at her sides. She tilted herself towards me on her toes. She fell straight back into my arms. I had to catch her or let her crack her head on the tessellated floor. I caught her under her arms and she went rubber-legged on me instantly. I had to hold her close to hold her up. When her head was against my chest she screwed it around and giggled at me.

Don't try this manoeuvre at home without adult supervision – or a good chiropractor.

All through this century, indeed, throughout the millennia, imaginary women have been using their bodies to try to make good boys do bad things, but – as Marlowe was in *The Big Sleep* – the heroes have been too strong for them.

From my first reading of American hard-boiled novels in my early twenties I knew I wanted to create a female detective who turned the tables on these negative images of women. But I was still living then in the world of daydreams. I could imagine myself with a finished book in print, but I couldn't imagine myself actually writing it.

It wasn't until I was in my early thirties, working as a manager for CNA Insurance, that I actually sat down to turn the stories I told in my head into what you see in print. When I started work on my first book, *Indemnity Only*, it was with the definite goal of creating a female detective who was a person, not an angel or a monster. But I wasn't thinking of what it means to be a woman hero in a positive way. I knew what I didn't want my detective to be, but not what she should be. As a result, I put her into the mainstream of the hard-boiled form – orphaned, with a Smith & Wesson, drinking whisky – instead of thinking about what special role a woman detective might play.

The one aspect of my detective I was thinking about consciously was her sexuality and the role of sex in my stories. Serial killers who torture women or children, rapists who prey on women and children, play an enormous – and enormously titillating – role in today's fiction. I vowed not to use sex to exploit my characters – or readers. I also wanted my hero, V I, to be a sexual being and a moral person at the same time. Too often the unmarried career woman in the modern mystery has depraved sexual appetites and has to die. In other cases, she may not be depraved but her appetites take a lot of satiation.

V I's emotional involvements do sometimes cloud her judgements. That is a fact of life for men and women both. V I does have lovers, but her sexuality does not prohibit her from making clear moral judgements and acting on them.

For women to find a voice, a voice telling them that they may have adventures, that action is a woman's appropriate sphere, has been the difficult task of the last several centuries. This barrage of imagery urging us to silence – indeed, suggesting that rape and dismemberment are appropriate responses to women who speak – is difficult to overcome.

In my own case, growing up under the demands of angry parents who sought to keep me in isolation, to denigrate my abilities, to make me the nursery maid and housekeeper for their sons, the effort to find and sustain a voice has been exhausting.

For me the true heroes are those who speak, more than those who act, those who can speak above the silencing clangour. My own heroine, V I is a woman of action. But her primary role is to speak. She says those things which I – which many women – are not strong enough to say for ourselves. That is why she can grow older, unlike most fictional detectives – because her success depends not so much on what she does, but on her willingness to put into words things that most people would rather remained unspoken.

I am myself not heroic. I get the shakes when I have to face angry or disapproving people. I find it hard to say "no" to people when they demand of me that which I don't wish to do. Too often I've been bullied out of supporting people or ideas that are important to me.

But my heroine has a voice. V I grew up in poverty and her adult finances are always precarious. She must overcome serious obstacles in her work. She possesses no amazing well of skills in dancing, horsemanship, fencing or diving to draw on. She speaks Italian because her mother was a poor immigrant, not because her wealthy family gave her private tutors and sent her to Europe for study. V I does drive a sporty red roadster, but she has trouble keeping up the payments, and she often comes home to a dirty apartment, to find an empty larder or rotting food.

In the years since my first book appeared, we have seen enormous changes in the mystery. Whereas it took me almost a year to find a publisher willing to take a chance on a woman detective in America's third largest city, we now have so many books with women heroes that I can't keep track of them all. Women now routinely review books in places like *The New York Times*, and our books are routinely reviewed. In 1982 it was still rare for high-prestige publications to look at works by women.

At the same time, books and movies still all too often look at women only in the tired old ways: In the last 10 or 15 years, as women's voices have grown stronger, the punishment of active women has also increased – at least in fiction. As a nod to the times imaginary women may have careers, but career women are deranged, with perverse sexual appetites, as Alix Forrest was in *Fatal Attraction*, or Carolyn Polhemus in *Presumed Innocent*. They may have to be brutalised or have to be rescued by the hero from rape.

When I was a teenager, *The Feminine Mystique* was a national bestseller. Today, hordes of young American women are buying a book called *The Rules*, which tells them how to return to the constricting society of my own childhood.

It makes me fretful, anxious to be standing close to my own half-century mark and see that my granddaughter is growing up in a world that still does not grant full humanity to women. I think of the great difficulty with which I came to a writing voice, the difficulty with which I maintain that voice, and wonder when it will become routine for a little girl to grow up with the sense that her "destiny" lies in words.

Twenty six hundred years ago, the poet Sappho – who saw the goddess descend from the heavens in a chariot drawn by sparrows – wrote:

Although they are
Only breath, words
Which I command
Are immortal.

My words do not come from me with the ease of breath: they are rather like water squeezed hardly from a rock. The sparrows outside my window don't bring me goddesses in chariots (although I keep hoping). They are hard-scrabbling urban birds, trying to stay alive in a world that's rough on small creatures, and on poets.

A few years ago a group of women came to a public event I did in Chicago. They introduced themselves to me afterwards as wives of out-of-work steelworkers. With the death of the mills on Chicago's south side, some of their husbands had been unemployed for five years or more; these women worked two jobs, as waitresses or check-out clerks, to keep food on the table and a roof overhead. They told me they had not read a book since leaving high school until someone told them V I came from their neighbourhood. They came to my lecture to tell me that the blue-collar girl detective helped them get through this very difficult hand that life had dealt them.

So although my words are only water squeezed from a rock, I hope that they may bridge a gap, help us all return to that time when girl poets as well as boys can grow up with the knowledge that their destiny lies in words.

The writer is a visiting fellow at Wolfson College, Oxford University. The above is an excerpt from a recent lecture.

The mean streets of Chicago (top): in which feminist detective VI Warshawski played by Kathleen Turner (left) in the film of the same name finds a voice to revise the constricting roles given to female protagonists in popular fiction – such as Alix Forrest (Glenn Close) in 'Fatal Attraction' and Carmen Sternwood (Martha Vickers, with Humphrey Bogart) in 'The Big Sleep'

The bald truth about William Hague

Miles Kington

At the time of writing this, I do not know who the new Tory party leader is, but I hope it is William Hague, because that means that the modest five bob I placed on him at the bookie's will have been changed into a magnificent, lottery-sized 25 bob. And it will prove that I can detect a historical pattern at work in the upper reaches of politics.

To put it another way, it was historically inevitable that a young, balding man should be elected Tory leader.

Why?

Because John Major was grey-haired, that's why.

So it had to be a young, bald man next.

Let me explain.

Twenty or 30 years ago it was highly unfashionable to be grey-haired, unless you were old enough to be grey-haired. If you spotted elements of grey coming into your hair, you hastily poured dye on to it. Well, it wasn't called dye by then. It was called Grecian 2000 or something, and described not as a dye but as a tinting agent or colour enhancer or coloriser or something.

Thirty years ago grey hair wasn't fashionable. Then it began to be fashionable, as younger people owned up to it. No longer did they dye their hair, they let it grow greyer. They even changed the name to make it sound trendy. No longer grey, it was "silvery", or just plain "distinguished". Then, after a Prime Minister whose hair was the colour of the sort of bronze ashtray you buy in cheap shops in India (I refer to Margaret Thatcher), we had a Prime Minister who looked sort of young *and yet had grey hair*. It was in fact about the time that John Major ascended Downing Street that silvery/grey/pearly/distinguished hair become acceptable among younger men.

So, whatever else may have happened during John Major's tenure – and it's hard to think of anything else now except the Scott report and BSE – at least one major development occurred. It became OK for younger men to start going silver. Well done, John. Mark you, towards the end, your hair looked pretty white to me, John, but let's say it was silver on average. Which means you must have brought a lot of comfort to young advertising executives and marketing consultants who wanted to seem young but couldn't stop their hair turning silver/grey/white.

However, this wasn't much comfort to other young men who weren't turning grey but going straight to baldness. Where was their role model? What young, bald man could make them look good? There was the occasional clean-shaven poll like Duncan Goodhew's, but what men really wanted was a young, balding man who was still thought of as young. There have been good guys who have had not a hair on their head, such as Yul Brynner and Telly Savalas, and thousands of monks in Buddhist countries, but they never looked bald – they just looked clean-shaven. My favourite bald guy was always the black blues singer Eddie "Cleanhead" Vinson, who suggested teasingly in his songs that his baldness was the secret of his success with women. But what men needed, especially men who were getting thin on top, was a young, balding role model.

There was John Cleese, who started going bald and then acquired a thatch patch. Well, fine for people who had the time and money. There was Bobby Charlton and Robert Robinson, who carefully combed what was left across their bare pates. Well, fine for people who didn't mind looking ridiculous. But these were men who tried to stem the tide, and we all know now that there is no point trying to stem the tide. In the great Quentin Crisp's wise words, don't try to go against the flow – go faster than the flow. If you are going bald, he once said, *cut all your hair off*.

Which brings us to William Hague.

Once upon a time, William Hague stood up at the Tory party conference looking like a little boy and delivered a speech so mature it might have been dreamt up by a 20-year-old Tory.

He became famous for looking like a choirboy and sounding like a young man.

Now he is standing up, looking like an elder statesman and still sounding like a young man.

I would not go so far as to say that he has given baldness a sense of style, but he has certainly told people that it is all right to be under 40 and balding. He has seen off older people with flowing locks, like Michael Howard and Peter Lilley. He has sent out the message: "OK, baldies of the world unite – you don't have to feel old any more!"

It's not great as a party slogan and a rallying cry.

But it's a lot better than the Tories had any right to expect so soon.

While the Tories bicker, politics is changing shape

Andrew Marr

The scale of the Blair project is larger and presents a far more profound challenge than a complacent Opposition realises

The Conservative Party is not itself. After last night's agonisingly close vote, it is broken in two; there is something profoundly symbolic and, for traditional Tories, equally ominous in the simple revelation that this party, once so adept at falling behind a new leader, is absolutely at a loss about which way to jump.

Whether Hague wins and leads the party further on its ideological kick, or whether it has a rush of reason to the head and plumps for Clarke, it is hard to see how either man can hold this thing together. Look closely at the faces after last night's vote and you see people who are still in deep, delirious denial. There is something fundamentally unserious about politicians who clearly think that these are still days for score-settling and ideology, not for rethinking and humility. I watch them and think they are a little nuts – high – several frontbenchers short of an Opposition.

Tony Blair, meanwhile, must wonder if his luck will ever end. Just as the sky darkens a little over his new administration – murders in Ulster, hard choices coming on public spending – he is offered the political equivalent of another few score on his Commons majority.

That is what the leadership fight seems to mean. Whether some moderate Tory MPs defect, or merely sit as a coherent, self-organised parliamentary splinter group, the prospect of a united main opposition party looks increasingly remote.

At bottom, the anti-Clarke camps seem bizarrely complacent. They think the party is something that can be reformed on anti-EMU, even anti-EU, lines, then Mandelson-ised, and can wait for the pendulum to swing. There will be a jolly few years of money-making and social life; the electorate will see sense; then it will be jobs for the chaps again.

And, of course, there is a respectable case for thinking that Blair and Co may foul things up and that one landslide may be followed by another. In politics, the only safe prediction is that the pundits will be confounded. (It is our constitutional function.)

But this thinking badly underestimates the scale of the Blairite project. Its ambition is to remake British politics, so that the broad, consensual middle-ground – pro-European but not federalist, pro-business but with a social conscience – is so firmly embedded in a grand political alliance as to be unmovable.

That's the ambition. There would be no government-shifting swing between left and right; merely a continuing "inclusive" administration that stuck close to popular priorities at all times. Blairite reformers had assumed that this would require proportional representation; maybe it doesn't. Maybe moderate Tories and Liberal Democrats are available already as cadet branches of the all-conquering new order.

Leave aside the inevitable hard choices, mistakes and enemies that any government makes. Is this not an impossible dream, simply because of the way modern societies work? Whether or not "left" and "right" are useful labels, all developed democracies have tended to evolve a system of binary politics, with periodic choices between conservatives and progressives.

As WS Gilbert put it, "I often think it's comical / How Nature always does contrive / That every boy and every gal, / That's born into the world alive, / Is either a little Liberal, / Or else a little Conservative."

Gilbert was making what would be nowadays called a "pluralist" point, satirising the assumption, not applauding it. But it does seem that healthy societies require a constant tension between reformers, or changers, and conservatives, who tug the reins – and, so far, that has been played out through party politics. And the question the Blair project raises is this: can a "third way" administration, deftly mixing reform and conservatism, offer society both impulses? If the answer is yes, then the Tories could find themselves irrelevant for very many years to come. In the past, though, the answer has always been no.

Sometimes "third ways" have been covers for authoritarianism, as in the fascist "third way" of the Thirties, or the strong-arm socialism of Tito's Yugoslavia; or they have seemed Utopian ("the third way" is a common environmentalist slogan); or they have been crushed between opposing social forces – as the SDP was, in the conflict between Thatcherism and socialism. Like it or not, we have been living in a binary world.

There is another way of looking at British society today, though. Perhaps the "progressive" or reformist instinct does not derive from politics at all, but from science and business. The key challenges to the old order, whether in the politics of fertility, or censorship-destroying and capital-shifting information technology, or in the shifts of wealth and employment caused by globalism, are not coming from Westminster or from political radicals of any kind.

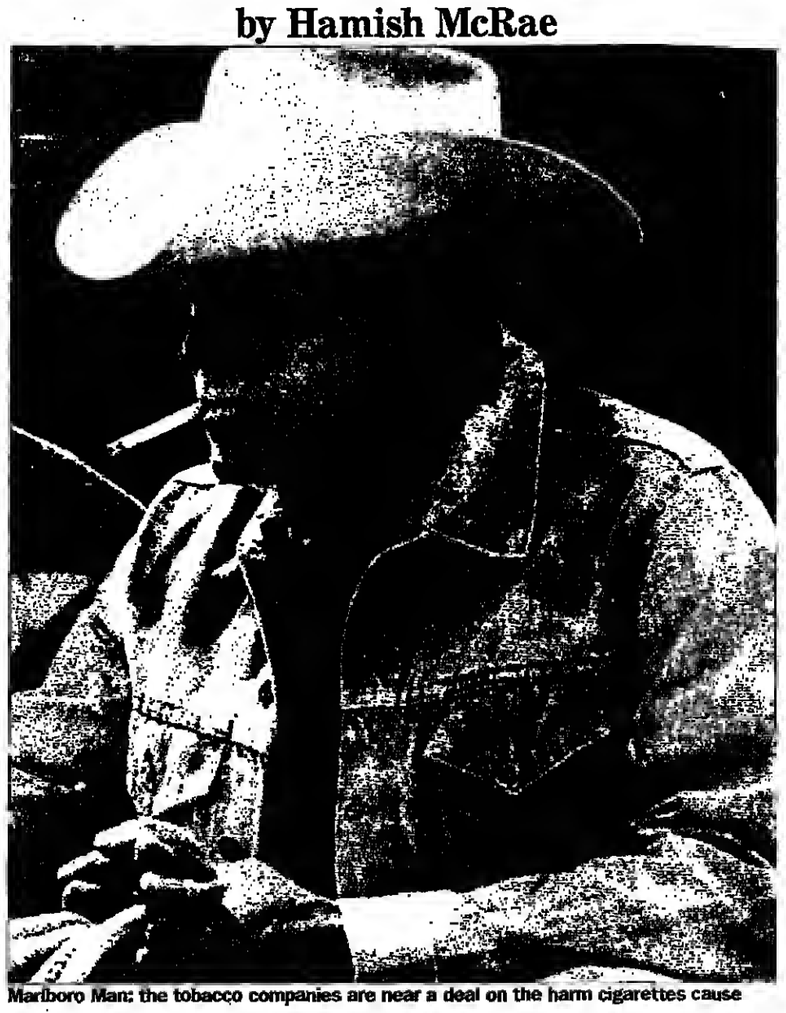
If that is so, then perhaps the role of politics will become essentially defensive and reactive – responding to the moral challenges in embryology, equipping citizens with flexible skills for the fast-changing economy; defending challenged public services; conserving as much of the remaining countryside and habitat as possible. Government becomes not a force to drive social change forward – there is plenty of that – but a conservative, moderating response to the changes roaring through our lives.

We have hardly begun to find new language to describe the Blair project. But that seems to me not a million miles away from what the Government is up to. If this analysis holds good then there is no particular reason to expect Labour in power to behave in a way that will set the pendulum swinging back: it will try to have an essentially reassuring, small-c conservative effect on us. Isn't that the message coming from most of Whitehall?

And though I may seem to have strayed a long way from the complacent student politics of much of the Conservative leadership contest, this is really what the Tories should be discussing. It is a much more profound and long-term political challenge to them than they seem to realise. The Government is quietly and determinedly redrawing the map of British politics. One of its intentions is to destroy the Conservative Party as a serious political force. Suddenly, that doesn't seem entirely impossible, though Labour will require further assistance from Tory MPs themselves. They were shattered on election night. Remarkably they are in an even worse position this morning.

The big cowboy will be watching you

by Hamish McRae



Marlboro Man: the tobacco companies are near a deal on the harm cigarettes cause

What have cigarettes in America, failing schools in Britain and BMWs got in common? The answer is that in all of them the link between the producer and the consumer is changing from a simple sale towards a longer-term contractual relationship.

Cigarettes first: it looks as though an historic agreement will be reached between the tobacco companies and the US authorities which will give the companies a large element of immunity from being sued for damages by people whose health has been impaired by smoking, in return for a series of payments by the companies towards the health-care of such people. Fierce haggling has been going on over the details, but it is possible that by tomorrow an agreement will be passed to the White House for approval.

The idea is a sensible one. Instead of the companies paying out an uncertain amount of money which would be distributed in a random way by the courts, it will give a known figure which could then be allocated in an orderly manner.

The American media is presenting it as "tobacco giants to pay out billions", and in literal terms that is indeed what will happen. But this idea that the tobacco companies will be punished for their wickedness is naive. The money will not come out of thin air. In the short term there will be some loss to shareholders, but in the longer term the money will be paid by the people who continue to buy the cigarettes. So what is really happening is this: the present and future flow of smokers will pay more for their cigarettes to compensate (or at least help pay for the health-care costs of) people who smoked 20, 30 or more years ago. It is a transfer of funds between different generations of smokers.

This inevitably brings the tobacco companies into a different relationship with their customers. There is an implicit bargain: pay more for cigarettes now and there will be funds to help look after you if you become ill later – though the funds will have to come from the next generation of smokers then, for like state pensions this is a pay-as-you-go plan, not a funded one.

This bargain has further implications. The tobacco companies now have an interest in the health and general lifestyles of their customers. If their customers smoke only moderately, go to the gym every day, eat up their greens and generally lead blame-free lives, they will presumably be healthier in old age and therefore be less of a charge on the health-care authorities. As the marketing gurus would put it, the tobacco companies are not just selling a product; they are entering into a relationship with their customers.

Now think about schools. Until recently you went to school, passed or failed your exams and that was the end of it. Not any more. As my colleague Jack O'Sullivan reported last month, more and more parents (and former pupils) are suing their schools for the alleged shortcomings in the education they received. A ruling in 1995 in the House of Lords cleared the way for people to take schools to court and there is a rash of cases coming up. Whether this will become a substantial trend will depend on the way the courts are seen to treat such cases, and it may be tough to prove that the reason someone failed his or her exams was the result of poor teaching rather than not doing the homework.

But you see the point: schools have to assume that they are not simply providing a service which begins and ends with the time the pupil is at the school. They too are entering into a relationship, for if former pupils fail in later life, they may end up taking part of the blame.

Indeed places of learning may find themselves involved even when the would-be student does not enter the portals. I was told yesterday by the head of an Oxford college that it had been threatened with legal action because it had failed to offer someone a place. In this case the person thought that the attempt to "buy" the service was enough to start a relationship, even though no transaction took place.

This idea that a sale is not a simple one-off thing is now being used as a marketing tool by manufacturers. Perhaps the best example is BMW. The company boasts that a high percentage of its cars can be recycled: that at the end of their long lives they can be brought back, taken to pieces, the various metals and plastics sorted, and then used as raw materials for another car. Also, perhaps more than any other manufacturer, BMW has thought about ways the car might "tell" the manufacturer about its needs. The cars already "tell" the driver – via coloured warning lights – when they need to be serviced.

The next obvious stage would be to pass this information directly via a radio signal to the dealer who could then book the car in for the work to be done.

Many manufacturers are eager to do this, and it has great commercial attractions. For a start the manufacturer gets to know a lot more about the way the customer uses the product. It also cements the long-term relationship, making it more likely that the customer will come back for a replacement model.

As technology advances, the machine will be able to contact the maker even without the owner needing to know. A microchip in a washing machine could tell when it needed more water-softener and get it delivered. Or, take this example told to me by an acquaintance in Japan about his elderly mother's high-technology loo. This now analyses her urine and sends that results back to her doctor over the telephone; if there is any abnormality her medication can be adjusted appropriately, without her needing to travel to the clinic.

In all these cases – the cigarette, the education, the BMW – the key point is that the purchase is not a one-off affair, but the start of a relationship. But relationships go both ways. If the seller is taking on an obligation which goes beyond the actual sale, it will want to be sure that the purchaser is living up to his or her obligations too.

The tobacco company will, in theory at least, want to be sure that someone who claims that an illness was caused by smoking was not, say, a drug abuser too. The school will be able to require of its pupils proper attendance and attentive behaviour, for otherwise it will be released of its obligation to make sure that they learn properly. The manufacturer will, again in theory at least, know so much about how its product has been used that when you take your BMW back with a broken automatic gearbox, it will absolve itself from blame because the box will have radioed back that it was always being jammed into reverse when the car was still moving forward.

Result: a world which heaps more obligations on producers of goods and services becomes a world which will also place more obligations on purchasers of those goods and services. That means a more earnest, bossy and legalistic world. Do we really want that? It is easy to see why it is happening, but it does not sound a bundle of fun.

If a seller is taking on new obligations, it will want to be sure that a purchaser is living up to his or her obligations too

Close the roads and traffic disappears

Christian Wolmar

What about a massive road-closing programme? It seems so obvious. If you need traffic to be reduced, then the space available for it should be cut

If you found the roads slightly less congested yesterday, it may have been because it was National Car-Free Day. Organised by the Environmental Transport Association, it was the first national attempt to get people out of their cars and onto other modes of transport. There were notable local successes with, for example, all but seven of 350 workers at Newcastle-upon-Tyne government offices foregoing their cars, and many train companies offering cheap rail tickets.

While such initiatives offer temporary relief, the search is on for more permanent solutions. The Road Traffic Reduction Act, passed in the dying days of the last government, requires local authorities to draw up plans to reduce traffic in their areas. The need for action has been recognised by Labour, which has set up a review of transport policy to be published as a White Paper in the spring with a heavy emphasis on "integrated transport".

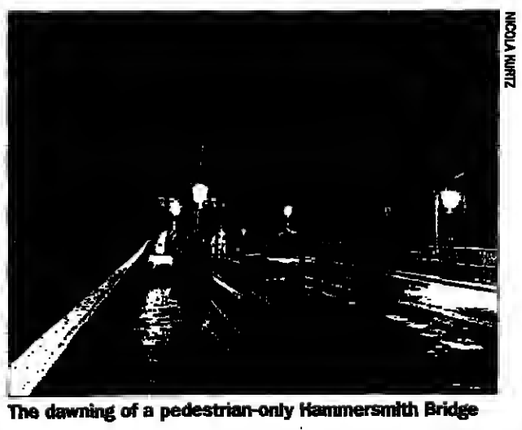
Massive road-building programmes have been ruled out as too expensive and environmentally unfriendly. But what about a much cheaper alternative, a massive road-closing programme? It seems so obvious. If you need traffic to be reduced, then the space available for it should be cut.

Traffic engineers have always argued that this would cause chaos and politicians balk at aggravating the motoring lobby. There is increasing evidence that if you remove road space, some of the traffic just disappears. The first study into this phenomenon, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, is due to be completed in the autumn.

Three years ago, an obscure government committee called SACTRA made the front pages with the discovery that building new roads, rather than providing an alternative route for existing motorists, generates extra traffic. People who used to go by bus or train changed to cars. Others, who might have stayed at home, took to the roads because it was easier than before. Result: more traffic and more congestion.

This might have seemed an utterly banal discovery. After all, when the first sheep trail was transformed into a rough road, all the local Neanderthals must have flocked to it. However, the notion of this generated traffic was news to the Department of Transport. For reasons lost in the mists of time, the DoT's way of calculating the value of new roads was based on the belief they did not attract extra traffic. Once it was accepted that they did – and that therefore they might not be worth building – the DoT had to recalculate its cost-benefits analysis.

So what about the obvious corollary that if you take road space away, then traffic on adjoining roads will not necessarily increase commensurately? Examples abound. It is the only enlightened policy that was ever stimulated by the IRA. After a series of bombs and bomb scares in London, in 1993 the City Corporation threw up a ring of steel (well, plastic bollards actually) around much of the Square Mile to prevent through-traffic using the area.



NICOLA KURTZ

The dawning of a pedestrian-only Hammersmith Bridge

Researchers reckon that since then, traffic in the restricted area has fallen by 40 per cent and air pollution by 15 per cent. They have come up with the bizarre statistic that daily "a line of traffic from Harrods to Cardiff has been taken out of the City".

More recently, closure of the crumbling Hammersmith Bridge has not resulted in the gridlock in west London that had been predicted. Sally Carr, a researcher, said: "Five per cent of work journeys and 20 per cent of non-work trips are no longer made. Others have shifted to different modes, which means that a total of 29 per cent of the car journeys that used to go over the bridge are no longer taking place." The bridge is still open to walkers and cyclists, encouraging many former motorists to switch to these methods of travel. Barnes, on the south side of the bridge, has become a village again, and residents, while annoyed that they can no longer go north very easily, are happy with the closure.

There are other examples around the capital and in other cities, both in Britain and abroad. When space for pedestrians was extended at Buckingham Palace, there was extra congestion, but now it's back to its previous level and life is much better for walkers.

On Birmingham's inner ring road, reduction from three lanes to two lanes with much better facilities for pedestrians has not resulted in problems on adjoining roads. In Nuremberg, Germany, a 25-year "pedestrianisation" has squeezed nearly all traffic out of the town centre, but it still flows reasonably around the ring road.

Bus companies, such as London Transport, have a vested interest. They want more bus lanes but at present the lanes stop 20 metres short of traffic lights, delaying the buses. But if they were allowed to carry on up to the lights, while road space would be cut dramatically, buses would become quicker than cars.

The implications are revolutionary. If new studies confirm that road closures do not lead to chaos, then planners will have to change their tune. No longer will they be able to argue against pedestrianisation and other changes.

Rural areas beset by tourist traffic could also benefit. Councils in the Lake District are considering partially closing some roads but are worried about scaring off tourists. This research may allay their fears. After a century in which transport policy has been dominated by road-building, a policy of closing roads would be the biggest U-turn in transport history. But logic may suggest it is the only sensible way ahead.

FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

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Storm over Thames Water dividend

Warning of hosepipe bans as payout is increased by 22%

Chris Godsmark
Business Correspondent

The row over big dividend increases from the privatised water companies escalated yesterday after Thames Water announced a 22 per cent hike in its payout to shareholders at the same time as the company, which has the highest leakage rates in the industry, unexpectedly warned of possible hosepipe bans.

But Thames softened its opposition to the windfall tax, arguing that it could afford to pay a levy of £150m without having to cut back on investment. It was the first time a privatised utility had publicly named an "acceptable" figure for its windfall tax liability.

Thames was last night embroiled in another conflict with Ian Byatt, the water industry regulator. In his annual report, published yesterday, Mr Byatt again said he was concerned at unsustainable dividends. He said companies "should fulfil their investment programmes and that unjustifiably high dividend increases do not undermine that."

Bill Alexander, Thames managing director, said Mr Byatt had no responsibility to limit dividend payouts, despite his recent criticism. "The regulator can have a view on dividends but he's not required to regulate it. It's not within his remit. It would be crazy to have dividend controls on top. How profits are paid out certainly isn't part of the regulatory regime at all."

This is the second confrontation between Thames and Ofwat this year. The group was the only water company to refuse to voluntarily limit bill increases from April after failing to meet investment obligations. Welsh Water, North West, Northumbrian, Severn Trent, South West Southern Yorkshire had all complied with the request.

The 22 per cent dividend hike to 34.4p a share, was the highest in this year's water company reporting season, taking the total shareholder payout to £197m. The company reported a 33 per cent rise in profits before exceptional charges to £[illegible]m, while international businesses made profits of £2.8m, compared with losses of £38m the previous year. Thames shares rose 6.5p, to 677.5p.

The company defended the dividend increase, arguing that a quarter was funded by international earnings, while the payout from the main regulated domestic business fell by 8 per cent. About half the dividend hike reflected the fact that Thames had bought back £225m worth of its shares last year.

Thames was also forced to defend its leakage record as it warned it could have to impose its first hosepipe and sprinkler bans for 6 years, starting from next month. In April the company had stated it did not expect to impose water restrictions, but Mr Alexander said the policy may have to change because of "exceptionally" low rainfall. Reservoirs were 87 per cent full, but only by taking water from the river Thames.

"If we don't get substantial rain in the next month we'll have to ask people not to use sprinklers and hosepipes. The problem is we need rain," he said. Ironically the warning came during the wettest June in the capital for several years.

Leakage rates had fallen from a peak of 38 per cent in 1995-96 to about 28 per cent after the company began a £200m repair programme with 800 staff. Another measure is to move 100,000 households with high water demand onto meters each year.

However, Thames again refused to adopt mandatory leakage targets. Some other companies have already adopted such targets after the government signalled its intention to make them compulsory in its recent "water summit." Mr Alexander said his company's voluntary target of 20 per cent leakage was "unprecedented" for any capital city. "We have extremely dry summers. Our pipes are in the same clay that cracks houses and it also cracks our pipes...Why should I agree to mandatory targets? What happens if I agree to mandatory targets and I fail?"

Facing critics: Sir Robert Clarke, Thames Water's chairman,can expect further confrontation with Ofwat as dividends soar Photograph: Brendan Corr

How much they are leaking

Company	Leakage 1995-96 (million litres per day)	%	Leakage target 1997-98 (million litres per day)
Anglian	236	20.1	211
Welsh Water	413	37.9	54
North West	789	33.5	705
Northumbrian	190	23.6	187
Severn Trent	632	28.7	410
South West	142	26.1	110
Southern	120	18.7	100
Thames	1109	38.6	962
Wessex	133	30.6	124
Yorkshire	485	33.4	434

Customer groups attacked the leakage rates, but said hosepipe bans were preferable to tougher restrictions on supply made later. Andrew Milne from the Ofwat Thames region customer committee said: "Thames Water must reduce its leakage rates."

The company's comments on the windfall tax will surprise other utilities. In a letter to the Treasury, published yesterday, it said it accepted the government's electoral mandate and was ready to pay a "fair share of the tax." David Luffrum, finance director, said this meant spreading the bill over a wide number of utilities, including British Telecom. "The tax should apply to all the privatised companies. BT have got competition around the margins but they're still a regulated company all the same. I wish I had their growth."

In a surprise move he said Thames could afford to pay a £150m tax bill, representing 3 per cent of a £5bn tax, which he argued should be based on company profits in the five years after privatisation.

"The balance sheet will take another £150m in debt. I'm answering the question 'would that force Thames to reduce our investment programme?' and the answer is probably not."

British Gas faces price curbs

Michael Harrison and Chris Godsmark

British Gas is today bracing itself for a tough price clampdown as the Government publishes the long-awaited Monopolies and Mergers Commission report on the charges its pipeline division TransCo is allowed to levy.

Unions were last night called to a meeting at BG's headquarters to be briefed on the outcome of the MMC investigation, which was prompted after the company rejected price cuts worth £28 a year for domestic customers proposed by the industry regulator Clare Spottiswoode.

BG has warned that the reduction in revenues set out under the new price formula could mean 10,000 job losses from TransCo's 20,000 strong workforce and cut its cash flow by £400m a year.

Details of the MMC's findings have been kept under tight wraps since its report was delivered to BG and Ofgas a fortnight ago. But the MMC is thought to have broadly backed the regulator's approach in a move which City analysts believe could still result in a reduction in bills of close to £20.

BG described Ms Spottiswoode's original proposals as the "biggest smash and grab raid" in corporate history and "seizure of shareholders' funds on an unprecedented scale". The company has been in dispute with Ofgas over the value of the assets on which it can earn a return, the amount of depreciation it can charge and the amount of operating expenditure it should be allowed.

Separately yesterday it emerged that the next trial of domestic gas competition, involving 2 million homes in Scotland and the North East of England, is likely to be pushed back from October to mid-November. Ms Spottiswoode will meet independent gas suppliers in the Ofgas Domestic Competition Focus Group on Monday to tell them Transco cannot build new computer systems in time to meet the original timetable.

Ian Lang, the former President of the Board of Trade, had announced the October plan shortly before the election, moving the original target date forward from 1998. John Battle, the new industry minister, has told Ofgas he wants to stick to the October timetable but is prepared to accept a short delay to avoid damaging customer service. The regulator has apparently accepted Transco's argument, given the short time remaining for industry-wide consultation.

'£1.8bn liability' means Tube could not be sold

Randeep Ramesh
Transport Correspondent

London Underground is a "£1.8bn liability" that can cannot be sold as a single entity, according to senior government officials, despite announcing record "operating" profits this year.

Although Tube managers will announce on Thursday that gross operating margins for this year will exceed £210m – an improvement of more than £18m over the previous year – civil servants say this is a "sleight of hand" which disguises the system's true losses.

Officials point out that the capital spending every year costs at least £330m to replace equipment as it wears out – leaving the Tube heavily reliant on government grants. The system is also badly in need of investment and faces a bill for a backlog of repairs that tops £1.25bn.

Although selling a majority stake in the Tube to the private sector remains an option for the Government, officials doubt whether there would be any takers for the ailing service unless subsidies were dramatically increased.

The most likely option for the Underground remains a British Rail-style split-up and sale. This would be vigorously opposed by Labour traditionalists who point out that present ministers attacked similar Conservative proposals for the nation's rail network when they sat on the Opposition benches.

Privately many officials concede that this would be a costly exercise. They point out that there is little room to increase revenue without raising the price of tickets, as London Transport already carries 85 per cent of commuters into London. This ability to increase sales quickly was key to the private sector tendering for BR's train operating companies.

"For the private sector to make a decent return and run the system you would need to pay companies at least £175m a year for 15 years to make money," said one civil servant.

Little is expected to happen before 1999. This leaves the Underground facing a financial disaster, unless Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, injects more cash into the system this July it will be forced to prune its spending on essential station and signalling work.

If the Chancellor sticks by the Tory's spending plans for the Tube, the system will see its funding cut from more than £600m this year to £150m in 1999-2000.

Peter Ford, chairman of London Transport, said the system should not be privatised until ministers were sure it will get a better deal than in the public sector.

Government borrowing figure shrinks

Diane Coyle
Economics Editor

Government borrowing is shrinking, according to figures published yesterday. News of the favourable trend comes ahead of tomorrow's report from the National Audit Office which is likely to claim that the outlook for the public finances published in last November's Budget was too optimistic.

The report is expected to prepare the ground for additional tax rises in the Budget on 2 July. Fears that companies will have to shoulder the higher tax burden because of Labour's manifesto pledges on income tax helped push share prices lower again yesterday.

The FTSE 100 index ended nearly 63 points lower at 4,682.2, its second successive fall. An opening decline in shares on Wall Street following buoyant figures for US industrial output also contributed, although the Dow Jones index later climbed above 7,800.

The Public Sector Borrowing Requirement (PSBR) was bigger than expected at just under £4bn in May, but its total in the first two months this financial year was only £4bn compared to £6.2bn at the same stage last year.

"The public finances are improving rapidly. The only reason for casting doubt on this is to create room for manoeuvre on government spending," said Kevin Gardiner, UK economist at investment bank Morgan Stanley.

Yesterday's figures showed that tax revenues are 4.5 per cent higher than at the same stage of the previous year, with VAT and income tax especially buoyant. More importantly, departmental spending is 3 per cent lower than in the first two months of 1996/97. Even adjusting for items like the sale of the MoD married quarters, underlying expenditure is flat.

With all the signs that it will be increasingly hard to stick to the current spending plans, most economists are assuming the NAO report will be a prelude to modest tax increases on top of the windfall levy in next month's Budget.

The report could find a hole of several billion pounds in the plans inherited from Kenneth Clarke. It is expected to challenge the assumptions made last Budget about the economy's potential growth rate, forecast falls in unemployment and the possible savings from cracking down on tax and benefit fraud.

Yesterday's fall in share prices partly reflected fears the Chancellor will raise up to £5bn a year from reducing or abolishing the tax credit on dividends for tax-exempt institutions.

It was also a reaction to yesterday's move on Wall Street, where the Dow Jones index was more than 51 points lower at 7718.71 shortly after opening. The impact of figures showing a bigger-than-expected jump in industrial output in May outweighed others showing tame consumer prices.

Manufacturing production jumped 0.4 per cent during the month. It was the tenth consecutive monthly increase after April's figure was revised up. Meanwhile headline inflation declined to 2.2 per cent from 2.5 per cent in April.

BAT close to settling lawsuits

Sameena Ahmad

BAT and fellow cigarette companies in the US last night looked close to reaching a landmark settlement to resolve hundreds of lawsuits, which together could be worth $300bn, filed by smokers and state governments seeking to recoup healthcare costs. According to reports in the Washington Post, sources close to the talks have revealed that most of the major issues have been resolved and an agreement could be announced this week. Christine Gregoire, Washington's attorney general said yesterday: "This comprehensive plan is coming together, I remain cautiously optimistic that we'll get it done." Henry Waxman, a US Republican opposed to the tobacco industry and in contact with White House chiefs, said yesterday that a breakthrough in the talks looked imminent. Reports say that in preparation for the announcement, negotiators have launched a campaign to woo public health groups, lawyers, the White House and the news media.

A BAT spokesman in London said he was not aware of any development in settlement talks while a representative of BAT's US tobacco arm Brown & Williamson refused to comment on the negotiations. Roy Burry of US broker Oppenheimer said that any agreement would touch on virtually every aspect of the industry from how cigarettes are advertised and marketed to the level of nicotine used and the price of each pack. Wayne Gerry, tobacco analyst at Kleinwort Benson said that the timing of settlement was uncertain: "We are all sitting here waiting. When it is announced the full ramifications will take most people a week or so to digest. Hell, just look at the logistics".

Though there are many issues still unresolved, those close to the talks say that several matters have already been settled. Cigarette makers could be asked to pay $10bn in cash upfront, with around 70 per cent going to individual states to pay for medical costs to treat sick smokers. The cigarette companies are then expected to make payments of $10bn-$15bn a year in perpetuity. On top the US tobacco industry might have to pay $1.5bn for a campaign aimed at dissuading smoking. In addition, individual lawsuits are expected to be permitted with the total awards to successful plaintiffs capped at perhaps $4bn a year. Analysts point out that in 40 years of lawsuits, the industry has not paid a cent for a health-related claims.

Other issues which may have been settled include an agreement to ban smoking in public buildings except for bars, restaurants, casinos and prisons and there would be bans on tobacco advertising on billboards and on sponsorship of sporting events and a ban on cartoon characters such as Joe Camel.

Mirror in talks with Midland newspaper group

Cathy Newman

Mirror Group announced yesterday that it is in talks with Midland Independent Newspapers, owner of the *Birmingham Post*, about a possible bid for the company.

The news came after months of speculation that the two companies were in discussions. Market observers said yesterday that Mirror and MIN had been in talks "on and off" for around eight months. Neither David Montgomery, chief executive of Mirror, nor Chris Oakley, chief executive of MIN, would comment last night. MIN's shares soared 30p to 179p yesterday, up from a 12-month low of 108p last summer.

Dealers said the announcement was sparked by renewed rumours in the market. However, it is thought the deal will not be finalised immediately, and talks are progressing at a "fairly leisurely" rate.

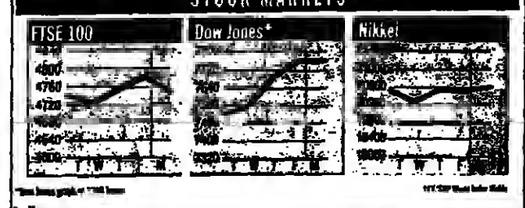
Mirror, which owns a 46 per cent stake in Newspaper Publishing, publishers of *The Independent* and *Independent on Sunday*, already co-operates with MIN on a cable television venture, Birmingham Live. Executives at both companies have previously said that these existing business links may have started rumours of a deal.

Analysts speculated that, judging by the prices offered for other regional newspaper groups, MIN may go for around £180m. Some commentators also believed that if Mirror clinched the deal it would sell a number of titles in order to focus on MIN's Birmingham and Coventry strongholds. A range of groups, including Johnston Press and Midland News Association, may be interested in any titles offloaded.

One analyst said Mirror could expand further into the regional newspaper sector if it was successful in its bid for MIN. He said: "If Mirror get it, I'd see it as a stepping stone to acquiring other regional newspaper groups." Mirror bid in conjunction with Independent Newspapers for Pearson's Westminster Press titles last year, but lost out to Newsquest Media Group.

MIN has been repeatedly named as a bid target as consolidation in the regional newspaper industry gathered pace.

STOCK MARKETS



Indices

Index	Close	Day's change	Change(%)	1996/97 High	1996/97 Low	Yield(%)
FTSE 100	4745.10	-38.00	-0.8	4783.10	4056.60	3.46
FTSE 250	4557.10	-29.00	-0.6	4729.40	4462.00	3.59
FTSE 350	2295.10	-17.70	-0.8	2312.80	2017.90	3.49
FT Small Cap	2283.81	-4.70	-0.2	2374.20	2178.29	3.09
FT All Share	2249.67	-16.44	-0.7	2266.11	1989.78	3.46
New York *	7772.09	-9.95	-0.1	7782.04	5032.94	1.64
Tokyo	20681.07	+152.72	+0.7	20681.07	17303.85	0.79†
Hong Kong	14394.60	+282.05	+2.0	14990.90	12055.17	3.08†
Frankfurt	3765.11	+20.67	+0.6	3765.11	2848.77	1.45†

Statistics as as 17/6/97

INTEREST RATES

Money Market Rates

Index	1 Month	1 Year
UK	6.53	7.00
US	5.59	6.09
Japan	0.53	0.84
Germany	3.06	3.25

Bond Yields *

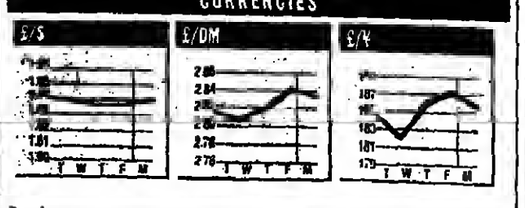
Index	Medium Bond (%)	Year Ago	Long Bond	(%) Year Ago
UK	7.02	8.11	7.11	8.22
US	7.08	6.91	7.18	7.11
Japan	2.38	3.20	-	-
Germany	5.68	6.65	6.47	-

*Benchmark Indices

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Price (p)	Change (p)	Change%	Falls	Price (p)	Change (p)	% Change
T & N	159	21	15.2	Psion	407.5	97.5	19.3
Atkins Ws	278.5	22	8.6	Celltech	250.5	24.5	8.9
Thorn	181.5	8	4.6	Albert Fisher Grp	43.5	3	6.5

CURRENCIES



Pound

	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago
$ (London)	1.6383	+0.28c	1.5370
$ (N York)‡	1.6372	+0.15c	1.5375
DM (London)	2.8335	-0.86pf	2.3406
¥ (London)	185.882	-Y1.704	167.105
£ Index	100.0	-0.3	85.6

Dollar

	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago
£ (London)	0.6104	-0.10	0.6506
£ (N York)‡	0.6108	-0.06	0.6510
DM (London)	1.7295	-0.83pf	1.5229
¥ (London)	113.460	-Y1.24	108.725
$ Index	102.3	-0.5	97.1

OTHER INDICATORS

	Yesterday	Day's chg	Year Ago
Oil Brent $	17.86	+0.10	17.85
Gold $	341.95	+0.40	384.15
Gold £	208.72	+0.06	249.93

	Index	Latest	Yr Ago	Next Fig.
RPI	156.9	+0.38pc	150.9	8 Jul
GDP	109.7	+2.6pc	107.0	25 Jul
Base Rates		6.50pc	6.75	--

COMMENT

What does Chisholm's going mean for BSkyB?

"To err is human, but forgiveness is not my policy." That's the saying Sam Chisholm is reputed to have had posted on his desk at BSkyB, and it helped establish his reputation as a bruiser and leading exponent of the head-banging, gorilla school of management. This is the type that takes positive pleasure in saying "you're fired". In Mr Chisholm's case, he exercised this ultimate man management weapon with ruthless abandon. The question is whether he has just fallen victim to his own medicine, or whether it is genuinely illness which is driving him into early retirement.

One of the lessons certainly seems to be that though there may be room for a few dependent fiefdoms within the Murdoch empire, ultimately there is only one emperor. Mr Chisholm has been attempting to take more of the credit for BSkyB's staggering success than the boss of bosses would have felt comfortable with. There has been friction between the two over the past year and Mr Chisholm has made apparently deliberate attempts to distance himself from his 40 per cent shareholder. Nothing would annoy Mr Chisholm more than to have his company constantly referred to in the press as "Mr Murdoch's BSkyB".

Whether it is just asthma, or as most people in the City suspect, a rather more serious respiratory disease that Mr Chisholm suffers from, nobody expected his departure quite so soon and certainly nobody expected his anointed heir, David Chance, to go with him. The timing looks odd for another reason too, for it comes on the eve of the ITC's decision on digital terrestrial.

But then Rupert Murdoch is in town and when that happens be rarely departs without a few more executive scalps to add to the collection. This time it was Mr Chisholm, who would not have gone willingly, ill or not ill. At this stage it is hard to know what the demise of the old buccaneer will mean for the pirate ship. The stock market's view yesterday was that it must be bad news, if only because it seems to be Mr Murdoch re-establishing control and probably hastens the nepotistic elevation of his daughter, Elisabeth, into the hot seat. The new chief executive is a complete unknown in the London market.

Furthermore, whatever you might think of Mr Chisholm - and there are plenty of unprintable thoughts out there - it is certainly true that he was responsible for much of the drive and vision behind Sky's recent success. With competitors and regulators closing in on all sides, his going might in the fullness of time come to be seen as marking the high point in the company's extraordinary assent.

A few years ago one of the country's biggest brewers hired a new head of public relations. On his first day in the job he was told to make two announcements. The first was that the company was watering down its beer and the second was that it was increasing the price of a pint. As PR challenges go, this takes some beating. Yesterday Thames Water matched and bettered it.

What business other than a public utility could announce a 19 per cent increase in profits and a 22 per cent increase in dividends on the same day as warning its customers that they face a summer of hosepipe bans?

In fairness to Thames, there are a number of mitigating factors. It has not had a hosepipe ban for six years, it is spending an extra £200m to reduce its appalling leakage rate and the amount of water it can extract from rivers is controlled by the Environment Agency.

That said, Thames' handling of its results must go down as one of the more crass pieces of public relations mismanagement. In the present febrile atmosphere, with a windfall tax around the corner and every public utility fair game for retribution, the company could not have expected anything less than the howls of outrage yesterday's double whammy produced.

The vast bulk of the dividend continues to be financed by monopoly profits. Pointing out that the distribution is higher per share because Thames bought back 10 per cent of its capital last year merely serves as an irritating reminder that shareholders had already benefited to the tune of £226m even before yesterday's top up.

More seriously, Thames has misjudged or mismanaged the regulatory risk it faces. Ian Byatt was on record again yesterday criticising "unjustifiably high" dividend increases. Thames, moreover, is the only company to have ignored a request from Ofwat to cut its bills this year in recognition of previous under-investment.

The good news for shareholders is that the balance sheet can easily support dividends of this size. The bad news is that it is also robust enough to pay a windfall tax of £150m, as the finance director has now blurted out. At this rate Gordon Brown may decide to take that merely as a starting point.

The market managed to shrug off on Monday the apparently well-informed story that pension funds are to lose their coveted tax credit perk in next month's budget. By yesterday, however, the brave face showed signs of cracking as the FTSE100 tumbled 63 points. We told you so, gloated the gloom-mongers who reckon the elimination of ACT is worth a good 10 per cent off the market.

In fact this view is a rather naive one, assuming as it does that none of the ACT hit is already in the market and believing that the actuarial shortfall will be wholly made up by lower share prices and consequently higher dividend yields. But it would be wrong of the market to dismiss the threat completely - it is plainly more concrete than a few days ago and comes on top of a growing list of other reasons to be nervous.

In purely arithmetical terms the market has probably not taken the whole ACT issue on board. When the tax credit's effective rate was reduced from 25 per cent to 20 per cent four years ago, the market fell by 2 per cent. Even if you don't buy the most pessimistic view of total abolition, it would still be reasonable to assume a slide of at least five per cent, which would imply a 250 point fall.

The main worry for the market, however, is to be found in labour market data. Falling unemployment, a rapid increase in job creation and service sector earnings coming to the boil suggest the demise of wage inflation has been exaggerated. The IT sector is notoriously tight, but Logica's profits warning last week is a worrying sign of rising costs.

It is hard to see a combination of higher wage bills and £30bn of windfalls not leading to higher prices on the high street and therefore higher interest rates. An 8 per cent base rate is beginning to look increasingly plausible.

It is not all gloom. Institutional liquidity is still strong and despite the media focus on an expected consumer binge after this summer's windfalls, many of the handouts will be saved. It is also possible to argue that the UK market is cheaper on several measures than its counterparts in the US and continental Europe, especially its smaller constituents whose poor showing this year has been disguised by the boom in banks and pharmaceuticals stocks that dominate the increasingly unrepresentative FTSE100. Even so, it is difficult to raise much enthusiasm for shares at this level.

Departure of top two knocks BSkyB shares

Cathy Newman

Shares in BSkyB fell sharply yesterday after the announcement that Sam Chisholm, chief executive, and David Chance, deputy managing director, were to leave the company at the end of the year. The news that Mr Chisholm, who is 57, was to step down on the advice of his doctor knocked 22p off BSkyB's share price, dragging it down to 566.5p.

City analysts were nervous about Mr Chisholm's replacement, Mark Booth, who is currently chief operating officer of JSkyB, Rupert Murdoch's Japanese satellite operation. Mr Booth, who is 40, has been in his current position for less than six months. One analyst said: "Mark Booth has nowhere near the skills or reputation of a Sam Chisholm."

Another worried that Booth would be beholden to Rupert Murdoch, chairman of News Corporation, rather than the BSkyB shareholders. The analyst added: "This is a clear but subtle indication that Murdoch is seizing back managerial control of BSkyB. Sam Chisholm is responsible for the BSkyB share price. It is not immediately evident how Murdoch's track record in ruthlessly expanding his TV interests returns value to the shareholders in the medium term."

The changes leave the way clear for Elisabeth Murdoch, Mr Murdoch's 28-year-old daughter, to rise up the ranks of the satellite television operator. Speculation is mounting that she will take Mr Chance's role in January next year.

The timing of the announcement puzzled many in the industry, coming as it did only weeks before the Independent Television Commission's decision on the digital terrestrial television licences. BSkyB, in conjunction with Carlton Communications and Granada Group, has bid for the chance to control digital terrestrial television.

Mathew Horsman, media analyst at Henderson Crosthwaite, said: "This is the end of an era in British broadcasting. It's a bit of a double whammy for Sky to lose the chief executive and his deputy on the eve of the digital revolution." Another analyst, who declined to be named, commented: "This will have a dramatic impact. Sam Chisholm has been a clear driving force. Sky is going through a demanding period in the run-up and transition from analogue to digital. The company needs someone who has that absolute conviction."

But Derek Terrington, media analyst at Teather & Greenwood, said departures were fairly common in Murdoch's empire. He added: "Any multiple departure has to be a bit devastating but departures at News Corp are not unusual." Mr Terrington was less bothered than most about Mr Booth's appointment, saying he had confidence in Mr Murdoch's decisions on personnel.

Mr Chance, who joined BSkyB eight years ago, said that even though he has often been viewed as Mr Chisholm's heir apparent, he declined to be considered for the role. He added that Mr Chisholm will remain a director of the company and Mr Chance is to continue as a consultant.

Mr Chance emphasised that he would be helping BSkyB switch from analogue to digital, and denied that the news would unduly destabilise the company. He said: "Sky's future is tremendously exciting with the launch of the digital initiative." Meanwhile, he paid tribute to the chief executive's work at the company. "Sam has been instrumental in Sky's success story. He inherited a company losing £14m a week at the time of the merger of Sky and BSB. It now has operating profit in excess of £300m," he said.

It has been an open secret in the industry for some while that Mr Chisholm suffers from asthma, and would be forced to take a back-seat role sooner or later.

Sources say that Mr Murdoch came to London last week, and finalised the terms of Mr Chisholm's departure. However, Mr Chisholm is thought to have started discussions to negotiate his way out of his contract some months ago.

Sam Chisholm: Stepping down on his doctor's advice

Regan hearing adjourned until July

A court hearing of the Co-operative Wholesale Society's private prosecution against Andrew Regan, which was due to take place today, has been adjourned to give lawyers more time to get their papers together. The hearing was adjourned by mutual agreement until 3 July. It will heard in the City of London Magistrates Court as planned previously.

Lawyers representing Mr Regan, whose £1.2bn break-up bid for the Co-op failed in April, said nothing should be read into the adjournment. "It was thought it would be more convenient for all concerned," said Ian Burton of Burton Copeland. "It is a perfectly normal procedure."

An earlier hearing of the case was also adjourned to give Mr Regan's legal team more time to prepare their case.

The case against Mr Regan and his business partner David Lyons, is for allegedly "aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring" the theft and for handling stolen property."

Both Mr Regan and Mr Lyons have said they will defend the charges "vigorously."

At the initial hearing last month, Allan Green, the Co-op's former head of retailing, was the only one of the three defendants to attend the court. All three had been due to attend today.

LVMH chief takes stake in GrandMet

Andrew Yates

Bernard Arnault, the combative chief executive of the French champagne-to-luxury luggage group LVMH, increased the pressure on the £23bn Guinness-Grand Metropolitan merger yesterday when he paid £27.4m for a 0.23 per cent stake in GrandMet.

It is Mr Arnault's latest move in an attempt to derail the proposed deal.

He has agreed not to increase his 14 per cent in Guinness after recently selling a 7 per cent stake in the group.

But by taking a stake in GrandMet he hopes to strengthen his bargaining power in an attempt to force GrandMet and Guinness to consider a proposal to merge their spirits divisions with LVMH's drinks subsidiary Moët Hennessy.

"If he takes a stake in GrandMet he can cause a fuss and lobby for a merger of all three companies spirits divisions," said one analyst.

Others see this as a classic tactic from the outspoken Frenchman designed to make a profit for his shareholders.

"Arnault is trying to put the wind up people and hedge his bets at the same time. If he doesn't get his way and the merger goes through he will at least hold a stake in GrandMet which should be worth more. There could be definite upside from this deal," says another industry source. Either way it is thought likely that LVMH may seek to buy more shares in the future.

Mr Arnault's ominous move is the latest shot in an increasingly bitter war between LVMH and Guinness. They are embroiled in a legal battle over control of Moët Hennessy. Last week LVMH confirmed its plans to call in arbitrators over its claims that the proposed merger gives it the right to buy Guinness' 34 per cent stake in Moet Hennessey which has been valued by analysts at around £1bn.

If LVMH wins the case it could effectively scupper any merger plans. LVMH claims any merger will trigger a change of ownership clause. At stake would also be the exclusive rights to distribute Guinness's leading spirits brands such as Johnnie Walker in the US and the Far East for the next ten years.

These contracts alone are worth upwards of £200m a year to Guinness. And GrandMet would be unable to sell its vodka and tequila brands through Guinness, one of the main rea-

IN BRIEF

Consumers want to keep electrical RRPs

Three out of four consumers do not want the Government to end the use of recommended retail prices when shopping around for televisions and hi-fi equipment, according to a Mori poll for the electrical manufacturers association Breama. The Monopolies & Mergers Commission is poised to call for the abolition of RRPs in a move which could open the way to greater price competition on the high street. But, according to Mori, 68 per cent of consumers do not want RRPs discontinued, 83 per cent expect to see RRPs advertised in shops and seven in 10 feel they are a good guide for comparing the prices of different models.

Brown urged to boost African education

Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer, is urged today to use this week's meeting of world leaders in Denver to launch a new initiative to boost education in Africa. In a new report, Oxfam said the Labour Government should take the opportunity to apply its top priority in the field of international development as well as at home. The charity will be drawing up detailed proposals to present to the Chancellor in time for him to put an education drive for Africa on the agenda for next year's G7 summit, to be hosted by the UK in Birmingham. It will recommend redirecting Britain's aid budget into primary education.

Allied Domecq agrees venture in Delhi

Allied Domecq, the pubs and drinks group, is forming a joint venture with Clan Morgan & Co of Delhi to further develop its presence in the Indian spirits market. The new company, Allied Domecq Spirits & Wine (India), will build a £3.5m plant in Rajasthan to bottle Teacher's Whisky. Teacher's is brand leader and holds 35 per cent of the 70,000 case Scotch market in India. Allied Domecq managing director Brian Senior said India was a growth market where foreign investment was increasing. The company will start trading in August and will employ some 200 people. Allied Domecq entered the Indian market in 1994.

Bakyrchik Gold shares suspended

Shares in Bakyrchik Gold have been temporarily suspended as the company seeks to secure additional funding. Bakyrchik said it is in discussions which, if successful, will result in the company procuring additional short-term financing. If agreement is reached this is likely to result in Bakyrchik putting to its shareholders a proposal for the restructuring of its ownership of the Bakyrchik Mine.

Second cash call for Mackie

Mackie International, the troubled Belfast-based textile machinery group, has unveiled its second cash call in less than 12 months and a restated loss of £7.2m for last year. The group is raising £5.25m in a five for two rescue rights issue at 20p a share to stave off the group's bankers and is also forecasting a further loss of £4m for the six months to the end of June. The group's shares were suspended at 113.5p in April pending a review of the business, which has led to a wholesale clear-out of the board and the installation of new chief executive Sul Sahota.

Banking retreat pulls down share market

Tom Stevenson
Financial Editor

Abbey National led a ragged retreat by the previously high-flying banking sector yesterday after NatWest's profits warning on Monday pricked the speculative bubble that had buoyed the former building society's shares. NatWest is understood to have approached Abbey with merger proposals but analysts believe lower profits and the loss of the head of its investment banking division this week make a bid less likely.

The 37p fall in Abbey's shares to 831p means it has fallen from a high of 961p in only a few weeks. The fall was matched by a 20p slide in Lloyds TSB's shares to 606.5p and a further 9.5p fall from NatWest to 745.5p after Monday's collapse.

Tumbling bank shares were a major influence on the 63-point fall in the FTSE 100 index of leading shares, which financial stocks now dominate.

"Hopes for a bid from NatWest are down the pan," one dealer said. "We decided some time ago Abbey had got too high and the stock is boiling over. The whole sector has come a bit easier and it's probably no surprise that the more speculative stocks have been hit more than most."

Analysts continued to take their red pens to profit forecasts for NatWest yesterday following Monday's announcement that a slump in returns from NatWest Markets, its investment banking arm, would peg group profits back to £770m in the six months to June. The inability of NatWest Markets to generate a decent return on capital claimed its first senior scalp this week when Martin Owen, its chief executive, was ousted.

Brokers were sceptical about the bank's near-term prospects, with Lehman Brothers' Robert Law suggesting even the most radical action might not transform the bank's outlook.

"NatWest looks set for a long haul," he said. "It is difficult to escape the conclusion that NatWest has no obviously sizeable businesses with attractive profitability, market share or competitive advantage."

He cut his 1997 profit forecast by 13 per cent to £1.75bn and expects next year's profits to be only £2bn compared to a previous estimate of £2.3bn.

Pressure is mounting on Derek Wanless, NatWest's group chief executive, to give the market proof that investment banking can pay its way. One broker said: "They have to be clearer on strategy."

Speculation was growing yesterday that NatWest's derivatives trading operation would be an early victim of the company's focus on its profitable activities.

Philips and Lucent merge

David Usborne
New York

Philips Electronics of the Netherlands and Lucent Technologies of the United States announced yesterday the merger of their telecommunications consumer products divisions to create a goliath with annual sales of $2.5bn.

Both Philips and Lucent Technologies, which was spun off from AT&T last year, are the leaders in their own markets in equipment such as telephones and answering machines.

The new company, to be called Philips Consumer Communications, will develop and sell cellular telephones, pagers and related communications products. Both sides hope to conclude the deal by 1 October.

While the new company is to be based in New Jersey, close to the headquarters of Lucent, it will be 60 per cent owned by Philips and 40 per cent by Lucent. Officials said the ownership structure directly reflected the respective sales revenue of the partner companies.

In Europe, Philips has a $1.4bn business in selling the products. Lucent's revenue on the same products from the US market comes out at $1.1bn. Officials said talks on a possible merger between the divisions began about three months ago. They said the main purpose was to provide the muscle for expansion into world markets, including Japan and Latin America.

"There are many markets in Latin America and Asia where we can offer those products in a short period of time," said Michael McTighe, managing director of Philips' telecom products division. Of the Japanese market, he said: "Next year we will attack there."

The news of the union was warmly greeted on Wall Street.

Eurotherm chief is feeling the heat

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

Electronic parts manufacturer Eurotherm grabbed the headlines last summer when the chief executive, Claes Hultman, resigned after a messy battle with fellow directors, only to be reinstated weeks later by admiring institutional investors. The débâcle was followed by a boardroom bloodbath, with Mr Hultman's detractors, including founder and chairman Jack Leonard, being forced out.

But Mr Hultman is going to have to work hard to repay the institutions' faith in him. Since he regained control, Eurotherm's share price has fallen by a third to 376p, down 6.5p yesterday, and underperformed the stock market by 44 per cent. Its interim results did little to lift the gloom. Profits fell by over a fifth to £14.7m.

To be fair, Mr Hultman is not to blame. Underlying profits were flat but Eurotherm was clobbered by the rise in the value of the pound, which wiped £4m off the bottom line. Strong sterling creates two problems for Eurotherm.

First, it sells almost half of its UK products, including temperature control equipment, drives which regulate motor speeds and gauging equipment, to domestically based exporters. But a rising pound has hit these customers hard and Eurotherm's domestic sales have been blighted. It has reacted by pioneering products which have, on the whole, been successful. But it is having to work hard to stand still.

Second, foreign producers are now much more cost competitive. Central European manufacturers especially have flooded Eurotherm's main markets with cheap imports. Poor demand on the Continent, induced by faltering economies in France and Germany, has added to its woes.

Pressure on margins is intense. Eurotherm's operating margin fell by more than two percentage points to 14 per cent. It would have dropped more but for the fact that it has decided not to slash prices to win custom, though this has had an adverse effect on sales which slipped nearly 3 per cent. Mr Hultman summed up the situation by saying: "We have a horrific situation with currencies."

One solution is to expand its businesses in North America and the Far East. But most sales over there are done through distributors and Eurotherm admits it does not stock enough products to win contracts with middlemen. To get them it will have to expand its product range by making more acquisitions. With £28m in the bank it can afford to do so, but penetrating these markets could prove to be a lengthy process.

Broker Henderson Crosthwaite has downgraded current year forecasts from £34m to £29.5m, putting the shares on a prospective p/e ratio of 17. Eurotherm could make an attractive bid target but Mr Hultman denies he has received a telephone call from anyone. Eurotherm is also considering returning cash to shareholders or launching a share buy back. Even so, the shares are best avoided.

Business Post delivers the goods

Business Post has been an unlikely success story since it floated at 120p nearly four years ago. The company is still a minnow in the fiercely competitive UK market for express delivered parcels and packets.

Its 3 per cent market share, built up using a unique franchise and regional hub system, puts it at number eight or nine, behind giants such as the Post Office's Parcelforce operation, Securicor and TNT. But the shares' 128 per cent outperformance since launch speaks for itself, even if they were down 5p at 478p on a bad day for the market yesterday.

Even though profits growth has steadily slowed over the past few years, a 24 per cent increase to £16.1m in the latest 12 months to March is still highly respectable, given the increasing size of the group. Earnings per share expanded by 21 per cent to 21p.

The company is demonstrating its confidence in its own financial strength by using close to half its £9.8m cash pile to pay a special dividend of 9.1p a share. Together with the second interim of 6.9p, this will be paid on 1 July to beat any move by the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, to scrap or reduce advance corporation tax.

The group denies any pressure to pay from founding brothers Peter and Michael Kane, both of whom have relinquished executive duties at the group over the past 18 months, but the special payment means the exiled pair will scoop a £7m windfall from dividends this year.

Certainly, there seems little reason to doubt the management's claim that the group can pay the dividend and meet its capital expenditure requirements over the next few years. All of last year's tripled capital expenditure at £7.5m was easily covered by operating cash flow of £14.5m, which augurs well for the current year's budget of £7.8m.

The new regional hub in London's Docklands will allow Business Post to attack the big but fragmented City of London market, while "super regional" hubs in Runcorn later this year and in north London by 1999 will complete its network. But the real boost should come from the £7.1m national hub due on-stream in Birmingham, which will cut costs and increase capacity by between 100 and 400 per cent.

Profits of £19.3m this year would put the shares on a forward p/e of 19, making them a firm hold.

Carpetright sales bounce back

Lord Harris of Peckham was working hard yesterday to restore confidence in Carpetright, the carpet retail group which he chairs. He had his work cut out, having sold a quarter of his holding in the business at 569p just months before the shares slid to a 435.5p low on fears it was overexpanding in a sticky market.

But full-year figures and upbeat comments on current trading helped, pushing the shares 37.5p higher to 478.5p yesterday.

Encouraging was Lord Harris's insistence that, far from a trading battle, there was plenty of room in the carpet market for more stores. With more than 70 per cent of the UK carpet market still in the hands of the independents and only one other big competitor – Allied Carpets – Carpetright has scope to increase its market share from the current 17 per cent.

Sales for the year to April rose 10 per cent on a like-for-like basis in a market growing at around half that rate. Moreover, Lord Harris reckons that even if the group's like-for-like sales growth slowed to 4 per cent for the next three years, as it has over the past seven weeks, the group will still hit its target of 30 per cent market share by 2000 and maintain margins.

As it is, most of the recent slowdown has been due to a dip in consumer confidence before the election and there are signs of a recent bounce in sales growth, which should be maintained by the housing market recovery.

That could mean higher margins over the next few years. What will also help are signs that the group is abandoning its cut-throat discounting policy for more sensible pricing.

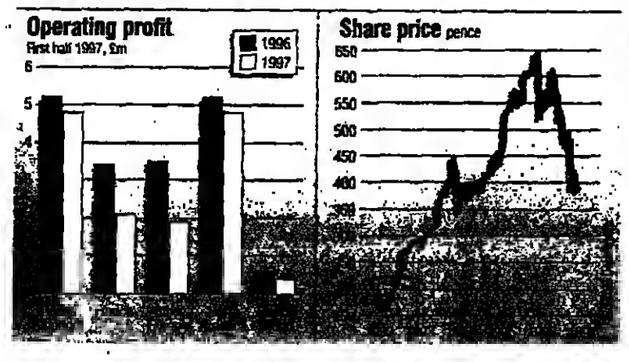
Gross margins in the period lifted a healthy 3.4 percentage points to 49 per cent.

NatWest is looking for profits of around £41m for the current year. On a forward p/e ratio of 14, the shares are cheap compared to the loftier valuation applied to Allied, but that is probably a fair valuation.

Eurotherm: At a glance

Market value: £342m, share price 376p

Trading record	1994	1995 (Full Year)	1996 (Full Year)	1996 (Half Year)	1997 (Half Year)
Turnover (£m)	168	195	207	102.2	99.5
Pre-tax profits (£m)	26.1	34.1	37.7	18.7	14.7
Earnings per share (p)	19.4	25.1	27.6	13.4	10.8
Dividends per share (p)	5.50	7.50	9.0	4.0	4.2



Hazlewood to focus on own-brand foods

Magnus Grimond

Hazlewood Foods is moving onto the growth tack with plans to beef up investment in expanding markets from sandwiches to year-round strawberries following the £45m sale of its potato processing activities announced yesterday.

The Fri d'Or businesses in Holland and the Czech Republic are being sold to Danisco, a Danish food company, after Hazlewood decided they did not fit with plans to develop "value-added" sectors of the business. The shares added 5.5p to 116.5p.

John Simons, Hazlewood's chief executive, said the sale "largely completes what has been a five-year refocusing programme. Over that period, we have got out of a lot of businesses where we didn't have critical mass, like orange juice, confectionery and shellfish." He said Hazlewood would "concentrate very much on growth markets, where the retailer's brand is a very strong player".

These markets be defined as convenience foods, delicatessen products such as quality meats and snack foods, and glasshouse horticulture. Hazlewood, which has no brands of its own, is already the biggest supplier of own-brand foods from sandwiches and recipe sauces to growing herbs for retailers such as Asda, Safeway, J Sainsbury, Tesco and Somerfield, which together account for half the group's turnover.

The sandwich market alone is growing at 12 per cent a year, while the group has just started supplying strawberries and raspberries grown all year round under glass to compete with fruit air-freighted in from abroad. Hazlewood is also developing a chilled food operation on the Continent based on the recent acquisition of a small Dutch manufacturer.

Some of the proceeds from yesterday's sale will be used for "quick ratchet payback" investments, such as increased automation to add features to products. In the short run, the money will slash gearing, which was around 130 per cent five years ago, by nearly half, from 51 per cent at the year end in March to a pro forma figure of 27 per cent. The deal would lead to around a £3.5m dilution in operating profits, but that should be offset in the current year by the absence of the £4m hit last time from the BSE scare, Hazlewood said.

The news accompanied the announcement of pre-tax profits cut from £34m to £32.3m in the year to March, a rise of 8.8 per cent once a £4.7m charge for the sale of a recycled paper business was excluded. A final dividend of 4.5p raises the annual total by 3 per cent to 6.9p, payable from underlying earnings per share up 4.9 per cent to 11.9p.

Mr Simons said the group had bounced back from the BSE crisis in the second half, recording underlying volume growth of 7.4 per cent, to give 5.2 per cent for the year. Margins had grown for the third successive year.

Watson & Philip puts problems behind it

Magnus Grimond

Watson & Philip, the Dundee-based convenience store operator, put October's profits warning behind it yesterday to report a 20 per cent jump in operating profits in the first six months of the year.

James Watson, chairman, said the multi-temperature "Distribution Plus" business which caused the problems was now developing well, with sales increasing by a half.

He said they were turning away lower margin business for the likes of schools and hospitals in favour of areas where "we can add value for our customers and make acceptable returns."

Major contract wins included a deal to supply the Rain Forest Cafes themed restaurant chain in the UK and Europe and La Belle Epoque, the London restaurant billed as Europe's biggest.

"The enhancement of our ability to supply chilled and frozen food leaves us well positioned for expected new business opportunities as they arise. We will continue to focus on managing maximum efficiency gains", he said.

The news prompted a 4p rise in Watson's shares to 436.5p yesterday, but they remain well short of the 466p they were at before October's warning.

The group unveiled pre-tax profits raised from £6.78m to £7.15m in the 26 weeks to April, a 24 per cent rise when exceptional items are stripped out. The interim dividend goes up 7.5 per cent to 5.7p.

The figures included a £4.32m exceptional credit to cover expected income over the remaining three-year life of a now discontinued wholesaling contract to supply the Spar/VG retailing group. The move came after it became clear that there was no chance of the group resuming the work again. The credit was partially offset by a £3.83m charge following a decision to exit vacant properties, mainly comprising surplus depots.

Food service operating profits rose 18 per cent to £1.3m, but the main driver remained the Alldays convenience store division. That saw a 28 per cent increase to £6.8m, including a 90 per cent jump in results for franchised operations to £2.34m.

These are run through Alldays' unique regional development company network, which involves head franchisees being given the right to operate up to 40 stores in a given region, with financial backing from the group, in exchange for putting up £100,000 of their own capital.

Company Results

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Applied Holographics (F)	9.58m (8.08m)	-239,638 (175,631)	-0.91p (0.71p)	
Atlantic Telecom (F)	8.69m (190.51m)	-2.85m (-812,000)	-7.35p (-2.89p)	
Cardiff Property (I)	1.05m (355,000)	210,000 (118,000)	5.9p (3.0p)	1.0p (0.9p)
Carpetright (F)	233.9m (185.3m)	32.17m (25.22m)	28.5p (22.3p)	19p (14.5p)
Eurotherm (I)	99.5m (102.2m)	14.7m (18.7m)	10.8p (13.4p)	4.2p (4.0p)
Firth Rixson (F)	74.92m (71.92m)	6.5m (3m)	3.4p (1.4p)	0.8p (0.4p)
Glynwed Cookware (F)	9.47m (-)	1.08m (-)	5.64p (-)	
Hazlewood Foods (F)	765.5m (766m)	37m (34m)	12.85p (13.54p)	6.9p (6.7p)
Hestiaia Arnley (I)	29.32m (28.38m)	1.96m (17,000)	5.0p (3.95p)	1.5p (1.5p)
Jennings Bros (I)	8.23m (6.95m)	455,000 (263,000)	4.5p (3.1p)	3.0p (2.5p)
London Merchant Sec (F) – (–)		32.6m (49.4m)	10.19p (15.45p)	4.6p (4.6p)
Moorview Estates (F)	20.41m (18.11m)	8.39m (7.89m)	122.5p (115.5p)	42p (27p)
Paris & Sand News (F)	151m (138.2m)	7.47m (18.35m)	41.9p (130.9p)	14.48p (12.87p)
Rebon Group (F)	66.44m (60.04m)	6.1m (6.5m)	4.84p (0.33p)	1.8p
Sheriff Holdings (I)	14.18m (12m)	321,000 (1.62m)	1.9p (10.1p)	2.35p (2.35p)
Thames Water (F)	1.29bn (1.19bn)	371.9m (228.7m)	82.8p (50.7p)	34.4p
Tinsley Robor (F)	51m (47m)	4.6m (3.5m)	8.6p (8.5p)	2.6p (2.25p)
Watson & Philip (I)	297.2m (278m)	7.15m (6.77m)	11.3p (9.8p)	5.7p (5.3p)
Wolfson (F)	128.5m (130.3m)	5.06m (10.17m)	2.4p (5.7p)	2.3p (5.2p)

(F) - Final (I) - Interim (9M) - Nine months

Portsmouth to widen publishing interests

Cathy Newman

Portsmouth & Sunderland, the publisher and retail group, is preparing to hit the acquisition trail now its period of heavy investment in printing facilities and shops is at an end.

The newspaper group said yesterday it was looking to expand in retailing and publishing, but warned it would not overpay for regional newspapers. Charles Brims, chief executive of Portsmouth & Sunderland, said: "We'd like to make acquisitions in publishing and retailing if the right opportunity comes along at the right price."

He said he would identify opportunities to buy individual titles or entire publishing companies, but only in adjacent areas where cost-savings could be made. Over the past two years Portsmouth has spent £45m on printing presses and opening branches of its One Stop Community Shops.

Underlying profits before tax were up 3.3 per cent to £9.3m in the year to the end of March. The previous year's profits of £18.6m were flattered by the £9.9m gain from the sale of the Croydon Advertiser Group.

'We're not going to Manchester'

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

Claes Hultman is never one to pull his punches, but the ebullient Swede, who runs Eurotherm and Wembley, is not going to win any friends in Manchester after comments he made yesterday. Mr Hultman, who is busy sorting out Wembley's problems, said the FA Cup Final was likely to remain at Wembley despite the site having to undergo a £120m overhaul after being chosen as the preferred location for the new National Stadium.

"People want to go to Wembley and watch the FA Cup," he said. "It is an option to renovate the ground in sections. We would like to keep Wembley open. After all, who would go to Manchester to watch the Cup Final?"

Mr Hultman is no stranger to controversy. Last year he was at the centre of a boardroom bust-up with fellow directors at Eurotherm, the electrical components supplier, where he is chief executive. He resigned then was reinstated after institutional shareholders kicked up a fuss.

This year he will take a pay cut after the group announced disappointing interim results. "With profits falling I will not get my bonus," he said.

Lord Harris of Peckham, the outspoken chairman of Carpetright and former treasurer of the Conservative Party, has declared his undying support for **William Hague** in the battle for the Tory leadership. The millionaire carpet king, who recently shelled out £50 after losing a bet with journalists on the outcome of the general election, said he was persuaded by Mr Hague's stance on Europe: "Ken Clarke is in favour of a single currency. I don't think we'll be ready for that for a few years. The Conservatives also need something different. William is young, new and enthusiastic."

Lord Harris says he is not looking for another active position in the party and will no longer make regular donations to the Tories. However, he tells me he is on hand for a spot of fundraising. "If William wants me to invite friends for dinner, I'm always willing to help."

After accusations of nepotism on the appointment of his 28-year-old son, **Martin**, to the board, Lord Harris said none of his other children would sit at the high table. Carpetright also employs older son **Peter Harris**, who is in charge of purchasing. Martin is looking a reluctant star. Not only did he ask not to be on the board, but while Lord Harris says Martin is being groomed to take over when he retires, probably in ten years, Martin is playing coy: "The right man will get the job. Whether that's me or not remains to be seen."

Controversial: Claes Hultman wants to keep the Cup Final at Wembley

The legal world is agog with the revelation that **Stephen Cooke**, deeply involved in merging Guinness and GrandMet, has found the time for a spot of moonlighting as a writer of film scores. The Slaughter & May partner's credits apparently include the music for the Channel 4 documentary *The Dying Rooms*. One of my colleagues, who spent his schooldays being overshadowed by this renaissance man, says the development is in keeping with the character of somebody who seems to bely his firm's ultra-dull image. Before leading a punk rock outfit, his party piece was adapting popular songs, such as Johnny Cash's *Thing Called Love* to local themes.

Viscount Montgomery of Alamein can stop spinning in his grave; the future of his famous duffle coat has been secured, or at least the company which made it is facing a more certain outlook. **Abe Tibbett**, the company doctor who saved the Wellingborough-based maker of The Montgomery Duffle from the hands of the receivers in 1980, is bowing out, but continuity at the 99-year-old company is being preserved through a management buy-out backed by Murray Johnstone, the Glasgow-based venture capital group.

No figure is being put on the deal but **Richard Nelson**, the new managing director, is a happy man. Talking as a party in the Northamptonshire factory raged in the background yesterday, he waxed: "Clothing companies are two a penny, but this is a rather special one. We are going forward." Certainly duffle coats are enjoying a revival in the UK at the moment but they appear to be even more popular overseas. The Japanese are apparently prepared to part with up to £600 for a genuine English model.

market report / shares

Data Bank

FTSE 100	4682.2	-62.9
FTSE 250	4538.0	-19.1
FTSE 350	2268.7	-26.4
SEAQ VOLUME	854.3m shares, 52,774 bargains	
Gilts Index	96.68	-0.26

Share spotlight

Turbulence expected as huge option expires on Friday

Suddenly equities are very nervous. With Gordon Brown's first Budget and its implied threat to institutional tax relief already taking its toll, the stock market was ill-prepared for an outbreak of futures and options nerves.

On Friday one of the biggest punts on the direction of shares – alleged to be around £1.5bn – is due to expire. The option has come dramatically unstuck: it banked on Footsie being at 4,300 points.

The contract was taken out in November. With Footsie romping ahead it has been getting seriously out of the money for nearly two months.

It would, therefore, be surprising if the investment house involved, rumoured to be a major institution, has not already taken evasive action.

Even so there are fears it could be forced into dumping some shares and there was talk yesterday of large lines on offer. The position could be made worse by other recent options and futures activity.

Many speculators, banking on a sharp Footsie correction, rolled over short-term contracts. It could all add up to a vicious squeeze and Friday's expiry could be one of the most turbulent sessions witnessed for a long while.

Budget and expiry fears, plus the continuing fall-out from **National Westminster Bank**, took Footsie down 62.9 points to 4,682.2. It has lost just over 100 points from Friday's record high – not a big fall but it has created worries that the market is in for a sweaty, uncertain summer, even if the Budget is not as fearsome as some expect.

Many strategists predicted a degree of Budget uncertainty would take the shine from Footsie. The general view that the index is heading for 5,000 remains unaltered.

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

Although Footsie's recent upsurge left the rest of the market floundering in its wake its sudden display of weakness has gripped supporting shares with the FTSE 250 index and the FTSE SmallCap index giving ground.

There was, however, no deluge of selling. Turnover remained around average with **Norwich Union**, down 6p at 318.5p, attracting a 40 million-plus volume.

NatWest slipped a further 9.5p to 745.5p and would have gone lower if some absurd story of a takeover bid had not been heard.

Even so, the accident-prone bank helped unsettle the rest of the banking sector with **Abbey National** off 37p at 831p and **Lloyds TSB** 20p at 606.5p.

Grand Metropolitan and **Guinness** were the toast of Goldman Sachs, which suggested prices of 660p for the two merger hopefuls. LVMH, the French group which opposes the deal, barged in by cheekily buying 4,750,000 GrandMet shares at an average price of 577p. It said it had no intention of bidding for GrandMet, up 15.5p to 581p; Guinness rose 8.5p to 588.5p.

Engineer **Siebe**, as its takeover of APV drew towards its close, gained 18.5p to 988.5p.

Midland Independent Newspapers, the *Birmingham Post* group, rose 30p to 179p as it disclosed it was in takeover talks with **Mirror Group**, off 3.5p to 205p.

BSkyB tumbled 21.5p to 566.5p as chief executive Sam Chisholm said he would leave at the end of the year. Some suggested the Chisholm factor was worth 100p a share.

EMI, the showbiz group, picked up 120,000 shares at 1,170p. It is returning nearly £500m to shareholders through the creation of "B" shares, worth 114.5p, which can be redeemed shortly after they are issued.

Carpetright rose 37.5p to 478.5p on its results, dragging **MFI Furniture** 7p better at 142p. **British Vita**, the chemical group, edged ahead a further 3.5p to 219p amid talk BZW had turned positive. The shares were 192p last month.

Bluebird Toys rose 10.5p to 90.5p on hopes of takeover action and **Rage Software** put on 1.25p to 4.5p after selling a loss-making off-shoot and expressing hopes it will return to profits. Managing director Paul Finnegan purchased 560,000 shares at 3.5p.

Petra Diamonds firmed to 108.5p; it has acquired diamond concessions covering 10,000 square miles in north eastern Angola.

Bakyrchik, the gold hopeful, was suspended at 83.5p as it sought more cash.

Newcomers made sound débuts. **Powderject Pharmaceuticals** reached 197.5p from a 185p placing and **Highland Timber**, off a 120p launch, reached 127.5p.

On Ofex, **Capolito Roma**, a clothing and footwear retailer, rose 4p to 47p. The company has said it is in takeover talks. One rumour is **Owen & Robinson**, unchanged at 10.5p, will bid 55p a share.

Taking Stock

☐ **Stories are circulating that William Grant & Sons, the unquoted Standfast Scotch whisky group, is stakebuilding at Burn Stewart, a whisky group with a record of declining profits since it came to market six years ago. Some believe Grant, which held abortive merger talks with Burn Stewart, could have 2.9 per cent of the capital. Last night Burn Stewart hosted an investment dinner. Profits last year were hit by a dispute with its auditors; the problem has since been resolved and stockbroker Charles Stanley expects profits of £3m for the year ending this month. The shares closed at 63.5p.**

☐ **Springwood, the leisure group, could make profits of £1.7m this year and £2.4m next, says stockbroker Teather & Greenwood. The shares rose 3p to 101.5p.**

Alcoholic Beverages

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
499	407½	Allied Domecq	414	+5	71	124	1550
628	512½	Bulmer(HP)	516	-	33	154	2005
75½	53½	Burn Stewart	63½	+2	67	158	198
1040	885	Glenmorangie	897½	-	17	242	3257
613	425½	Grand Met	581	+15½	35	185	2759
615	414	Guinness	588½	+8½	34	168	2761
380	321½	Highland D	332	-	32	155	2890
654¼	488¼	Kirin	633¾	-9¼	18	-	100
398	285	Matthew Clk	282½	-1	114	126	2168
198½	70½	Merrydown	72	-1	28	87	3382
25	22	Seagrams	£25		12	-	-

Banks, Merchant

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
587½	380	Cater Allen	582½	+5	68	218	2081
498	356½	Close Bros	448	-	30	163	2138
380½	270	Gerrard	343½	-	68	168	2888
288½	218½	Hambros	236	-2	41	127	2812
572½	465	Leopold J	572½	+5	43	338	3060
38½	44½	Rea Bros	45	-	28	198	3785
1787½	1500	Schroders	1662½	-10	18	190	3039
162½	127½	Singer &Fried	139	-½	42	196	4028
109½	71	Union	76½	-	25	-	4353
397½	310	Witrust	392½	-	41	185	4524

Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items.

Other details: r Ex rights x Ex-dividend a Ex all u Unlisted Securities Market s Suspended pp Partly Paid pm Nil Paid Shares. ‡ AIM Stock

Source: FT information

The Independent Index

The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from London Stock Exchange. Simply dial 0891 123 395, and when prompted to do, so enter the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the latest financial reports dial 0891 1233 followed by one of the two-digit codes below.

FTSE 100 – Real-time	00	Sterling Rates	04	Privatisation Issues	38
UK Stock Market Report	01	Bullion Report	05	Water Shares	39
UK Company News	02	Wall St Report	20	Electricity Shares	40
Foreign Exchange	03	Tokyo Market	21	High Street Banks	41

Anyone with a tone-dial telephone can use this service. For a detailed description of The Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0891 123 333. For assistance, call our helpline 0171 873 4378 (9.00am - 5.00pm).

Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

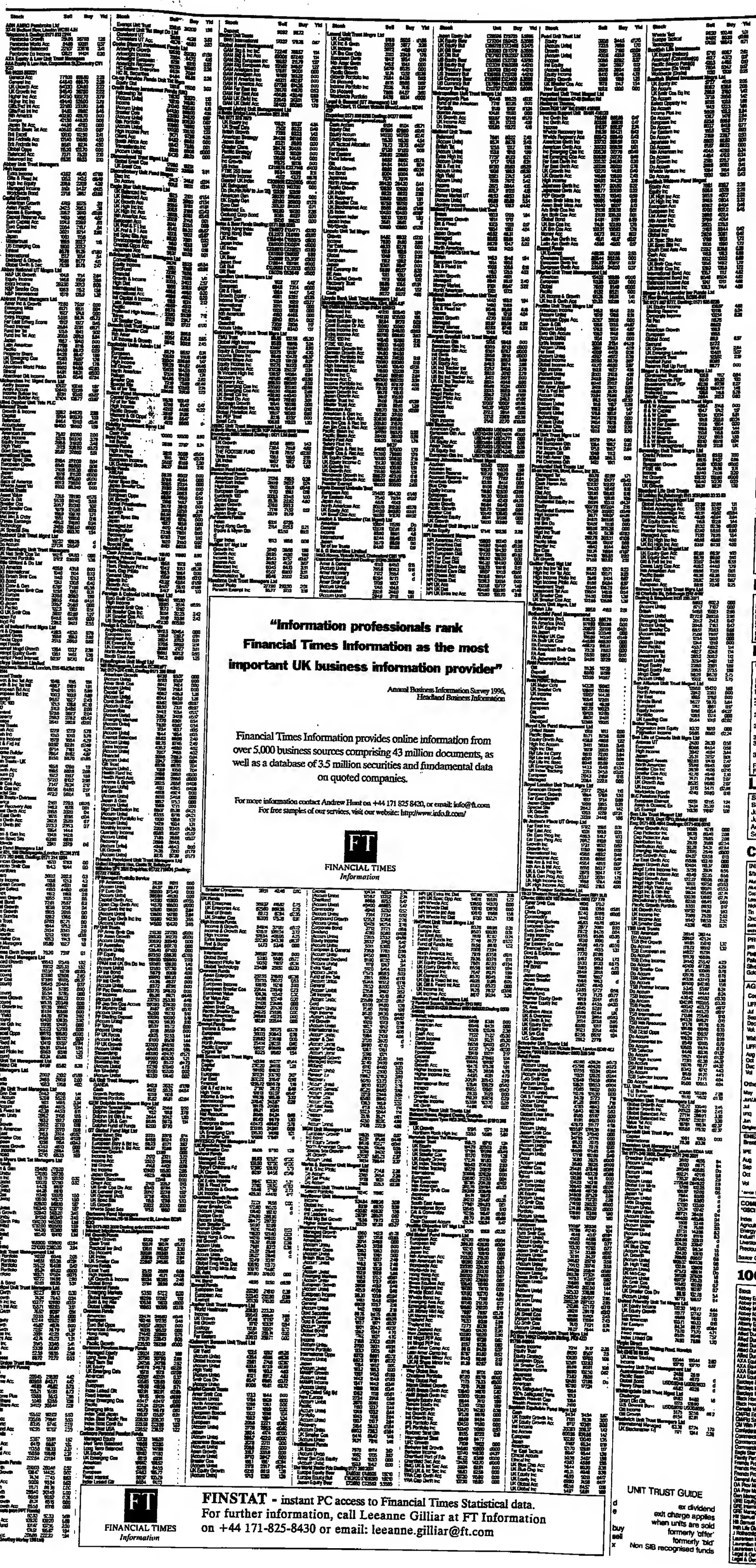
Stock	Vol'000	Stock	Vol'000	Stock	Vol'000	Stock	Vol'000
Norwich Union	4080000	Grand Met.	1800000	ICI	1190000	MFI	850000
Sainsbury	2170000	Halifax	1430000	Centrica	1170000	ASDA Group	840000
BTR	2140000	NatWest Bank	1290000	Lloyds TSB	1010000	BP	760000
BT	2080000	Vodafone	1290000	British Steel	880000	Safeway	850000
Allied Domecq	1930000	LucasVarity	1270000	Marks & Spencer	880000	Ryl & Sun Alce	650000

FTSE 100 index hour by hour

Open 4748.3 up 1.2	11.00 4744.9 down 0.2	14.00 4679.4 down 65.7
09.00 4747.2 up 2.1	12.00 4725.2 down 19.9	15.00 4674.5 down 70.6
10.00 4756.2 up 11.1	13.00 4697.4 down 47.7	16.00 4679.4 down 65.7
		Close 4682.2 down 62.9

Government Securities

unit trusts



Foreign Exchange Rates

STERLING Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	DOLLAR Spot	1 month	3 months	D-MARK Spot
US	1.6360	13-11	38-35	1.000	–	–	0.5768
Canada	2.2701	65-80	181-173	1.3859	30-29	86-84	0.7594
Germany	2.8398	79-73	241-231	1.7338	38-36	116-112	1.0000
France	9.5800	250-234	736-708	5.8488	118-114	350-338	3.3738
Italy	2780.0	20-18	40-28	1697.5	15-22.5	410-510	979.9500
Japan	165.78	108-104	310-304	101.242	58-55	187-185	58.4589
ECU	1.4521	28-25	88-83	0.8873	14-16	47-49	0.5713
Belgium	58.614	18-13	50-44	35.785	85-65	245-215	20.6402
Denmark	10.515	280-230	830-730	6.6043	125-107	390-340	3.8093
Netherlands	3.2947	88-82	271-258	2.0123	42-40	130-124	1.1620
Ireland	1.0882	3-2	12-6	0.6505	6-5	15-10	0.3825
Norway	11.882	330-280	850-850	7.2604	110-107	453-402	4.1877
Spain	236.75	21-11	69-51	144.637	00-00	108-47	84.4239
Sweden	12.719	240-190	750-640	7.7653	106-81	325-275	4.4789
Switzerland	2.3714	97-90	291-278	1.4485	50-47	148-143	0.8351
Australia*	2.1932	9-3	30-20	1.3399	4-6	22-27	0.7688
Hong Kong	12.679	80-39	194-157	7.7405	8-12	22-27	4.4648
Malaysia	4.157	0-0	0-0	2.5415	21-24	62-68	1.4486
New Zealand*	2.3737	2-5	2-14	1.4492	7-8	31-33	0.8359
Saudi Arabia	6.1436	0-0	0-0	3.7508	1-4	5-10	2.2634
Singapore	2.3368	0-0	0-0	1.4266	13-15	60-65	0.8225

OTHER SPOT RATES

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	1.6361	0.9999	Nigeria	130.583	85.2000
Austria	19.9843	12.2008	Oman	0.6307	0.3850
Brazil	1.7594	1.0739	Pakistan	66.047	40.3496
China	13.5861	8.2928	Philippines	43.291	26.4000
Egypt	5.5593	3.4008	Portugal	296.559	181.000
Finland	8.4984	5.1861	Qatar	5.9622	3.6406
Ghana	344.882	210.500	Russia	943.026	576.000
Greece	448.884	274.000	South Africa	7.3920	4.5120
India	68.8305	42.0000	Taiwan	45.774	27.9400
Kuwait	0.4959	0.3027	UAE	6.0175	3.6730

Note: Forward rates quoted high to low are at a discount (subtract from spot rate); those quoted low to high are at a premium (add to spot rate). *Dollar rates quoted as reciprocals. For the latest high are at a premium (add to spot rate). Calls cost 50p per minute (daily rate) 45p other times. Foreign exchange rates call 0891 123 3058.

Tourist Rates

£ Buys		£ Buys		£ Buys	
Australia(Dollars)	2.2150	France(Francs)	9.2280	New Zealand(Dollars)	2.3025
Austria(Schillings)	19.4000	Germany(Marks)	2.7575	Norway(Kroner)	11.5700
Belgium(Francs)	58.9000	Greece(Drachma)	439.0000	Portugal(Escudos)	278.9000
Canada(Dollars)	2.2026	Hong Kong(Dollars)	12.9000	Spain(Pesetas)	231.8000
Cyprus(Pounds)	0.8140	Ireland(Punts)	1.0465	Sweden(Kronor)	12.4875
Denmark(Kroner)	10.5700	Italy(Lire)	2730.0000	Switzerland(Francs)	2.3936
Holland(Guilders)	3.0900	Japan(Yen)	163.0000	Turkey(Lira)	225180.0000
Finland(Marks)	8.3850	Malta(Lira)	0.6180	United States(Dollars)	1.5800

Interest Rates

UK		Germany		US		Japan	
Base	6.50%	Discount	2.50%	Prime	8.50%	Discount	0.50%
France		Lombard	4.50%	Discount	5.00%	Belgium	
Intervention	3.10%	Canada		Fed Funds	5.50%	Discount	2.50%
Italy		Prime	4.75%	Repo	5.25%	Central	3.00%
Discount	6.75%	Discount	5.00%	10-Day Repo		Switzerland	
Netherlands		Denmark		Sweden		Discount	1.00%
Advances	2.90%	Discount	3.25%	Repo (Ave)	4.10%	Lombard	n/a %

Bond Yields

Country	5 yr	Yield %	10 yr	yield %	Country	5 yr	Yield %	10 yr	yield %
UK	7.0%	6.93	7.25%	7.07	Netherlands	5.25%	4.63	5.75%	5.60
US	6.63%	6.31	6.25%	6.43	Spain	7.90%	5.51	7.25%	6.38
Japan	5.50%	1.72	2.90%	2.00	Italy	6.25%	6.47	6.75%	7.05
Australia	10.0%	8.57	6.75%	7.02	Belgium	9.0%	4.75	6.25%	5.81
Germany	6.0%	4.77	6.0%	4.77	Sweden	10.0%	5.87	8.50%	6.83
France	4.75%	4.82	5.50%	5.59	ECU OAT	6.0%	4.67	5.50%	6.03

Source: HSBC Markets Research. Yields calculated on local basis. ** Denotes new benchmark

Money Market Rates

	O'Night		7 Day		1 Month		3 Months		6 Months		1 Year	
Interbank	6¼	6¼	6⅜	6⅛	6 9/16	6 5/16	6 9/16	6¼	6¼	6⅛	6 11/16	7 1/16
Sterling CDs	-	-	-	-	6⅝	-	6 15/16	-	6⅞	-	6⅞	-
Local Authority Deps	6⅛	-	6⅛	-	6¼	-	6 7/16	-	6 9/16	-	6 11/16	-
Discount Market Deps	6⅛	-	6⅛	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Treasury Bills (Buy)					6⅜	-	6¼	-				
Dollar CDs	-	-	-	-	5.48	-	5.58	-	5.70	-	5.98	-
ECU Linked Dep	-	-	-	-	4⅛	4	4 5/16	4⅛	4 1/16	4 1/16	4 3/16	4 3/16

Liffe Financial Futures

Contract		Settlement price	High/Low for day		Est Conts traded	Open Interest
Long Gilt	(Jun 97)	114-15	114-26	114-12	483	1266
German Gvt Bd	(Sep 97)	101.32	101.86	101.22	226572	256189
Italian Bond	(Sep 97)	132.58	132.87	132.14	85799	86213
Japan Gvt Bd	(Sep 97)	124.19	124.35	124.19	1802	n/a
3 Mth Sterling	(Jun 97)	93.30	93.30	93.28	4084	95036
	(Sep 97)	93.16	93.18	93.15	194.42	128424
3 Mth Euromark	(Sep 97)	96.82	96.83	96.81	28592	270420
	(Dec 97)	96.71	96.74	96.71	13385	266542
3 Mth Eurolira	(Sep 97)	93.38	93.42	93.36	16593	114177
	(Dec 97)	93.71	93.76	93.69	14535	66863
3 Mth Euryen	(Dec 97)	98.10	98.11	98.10	505	n/a
3 Mth Euroswiss	(Sep 97)	98.46	98.52	98.42	20314	68966
	(Dec 97)	98.30	98.36	98.27	7613	40669
3 Mth ECU	(Sep 97)	95.86	95.90	95.86	1082	6097
	(Dec 97)	95.83	95.85	95.82	255	5552
FTSE 100	(Jun 97)	4661.0	4707.0	4656.0	29932	49618
FTSE 250	(Jun 97)	4554.0	4584.0	4554.0	850	4361

Liffe FTSE 100 Index Option

Settlement price: 4679

Series	4600	4650	4700	4750	Call/Put Total/vols
Jun	88/6	48/17	20/40	6/46	--
Jul	157/56	122/71	81/92	86/120	--
Aug	180/81	150/100	119/120	95/147	--
Sep	217/97	185/117	153/138	127/165	110/161

Commodities

INDUSTRIAL METALS - London Metal Exchange

$/tonne	Cash	3 mths	Volume
Alumin HG	1552.0-53.0	1576.5-80.0	110831
Alumin Alloy	14550-500	14690-710	7100
Copper A	2660.0-710	2681.0-82.0	54809
Lead	509.0	522.0-3.0	5840
Nickel	7070-80	7180-90	25274
Tin	5510-20	5560-65	4856
Zinc	1349.0-47	1369.0-69	17734

LME Stocks		chg
	4360	
+	180	
+	1950	
+	200	
+	80	
+	20	
+	25	

Stock volumes & change in tonnes as at Tue 17 Jun

Settlement Cash Cash/3 mths Volume
exchange rates 1.6360 1.7392 111655

PRECIOUS METALS

pm fix /oz	$	£	Coins	$	£
Platinum	417.00	254.66	Britannia	355	223
Palladium	136.00	83.70	Britannia 5 oz	337	214
Silver spot	4.720	2.879	Britannia 25 oz	82	50
Gold Bullion	342.85	209.90	Britannia 10 oz	41	25

	$	£
Krugerrands	342/355	209/217
Soviet	80/90	48/55
Nobles	418/434	253/265
Maple Leaf	348/365	213/223

Source: Spink & Son

AGRICULTURAL

Cocoa		Coffee		Barley		Potatoes		Potatoes	
LIFFE	£/tonne	LIFFE	$/tonne	LIFFE	£/tonne	LIFFE	£/tonne	ATA	Gld/100kg
Jul	1091	Jul	1800	Sep	81.25	Jun	38.00	Vol:	
Sep	1111	Sep	1910	Nov	84.25	Nov	72.00	Jun	1000
Dec	1108	Nov	1930	Jan	86.25	Mar	77.00	Apr	2270
Vol:	10615	Vol:	12142	Vol:	10	Vol:	125	Vol:	232

White Sugar		Freight		Wheat		Corn	
LIFFE	$/tonne	LIFFE	$10/index pt	LIFFE	£/tonne	CBOT#	
Aug	323.60	Jun	1280	Jul	79.50		
Oct	317.30	Jul	1200	Sep	85.50	Jul	263.75-268.0
Dec	314.70	Vol	77	Nov	88.50	Sep	253-255.25
Vol	1292	Index	1274	Vol:	616	Dec	249.0-249.75

1230 Prices

	Cents/bushel	Seed
Hi-Lo		
		268.0
		251.75
		248.0

Source: CME

Other Softs (Agricultural)

May	Maize (No.3)**	$/tonne	108.00	Aug/Oct	Soya Oil$ FL/100kg 106.00
Jun/Jul	Copra (I)	$/tonne	118.00	Jun/Jul	Coconut Oil (I) $/tonne 645.00
Jul	Cotton (NY)	US cents/lb	72.71	unq	Sunflower Oil$ $/tonne unq
unq	Wool	Acent/kg	unq	Aug/Oct	Rapeseed Oil$ FL/100kg 103.50
Jun	Rubber*	Mcent/kg	283.00	Jul	Groundnut Oil $/tonne 1075.00

Origin: $Dus/EEC - entry origin - *Kl/Malaysia/Indonesia **Malaysia ***Ml Europe Source: FT Information/Reuters

ENERGY

Brent Crude		($/barrel)	Gasoil		($/tonne)	WTI	
IPE	5.30pm	*chg	Yr ago	IPE	close	*chg	
Aug	18.17	+0.20		Jul	183.75	+2.00	Aug
Sep	18.30	+015		Aug	185.50	+1.75	Sep
Oct	18.45	+0.17		Sep	187.50	+1.50	Oct
Vol	30104	Index	1785	Vol		12834	Nov

Products †		($/tonne)
5pm	Spot CIF North West Europe	
1840	Prem Unleaded	193/195
1850	Naphtha	183/185
1980	EC Gasoil	180/187
1985	Fuel Oil	81/83

* since 5.30pm previous day. Year ago prices show average for week. Source: ICIS-London Oil Reports †Nwe prices

COMMODITY INDICES

*GSCI Indices	Base date	+/-Spot	%Day Chg	Dec 31st	% Yrto dt chg	Year ago	% Yr chg
Index	1970=100	1510	-0.7	215.25	-14.01	199.44	-7.18
Agricultural	1970=100	232.95	-1.77	231.23	+0.74	252.38	-17.46
Energy	1983=100	85.40	+0.35	85.85	-23.83	88.53	-3.54
Industl Metals	1977=100	187.54	-0.97	168.79	+11.11	156.94	+12.34
Livestock	1970=100	189.49	+0.73	191.03	-0.81	190.42	-0.48
Precious Metals	1973=100	439.37	+0.43	465.54	-5.21	438.54	+0.06

Source: Goldman, Sachs & Co. *GSCI is a trademark and servicemark of Goldman, Sachs & Co. †Close as of 18 June 1997

100 Largest Insurance Funds

Stock	Bid	Mid	Offer	Stock	Bid	Mid	Offer
Abbey Equity Ser 4	3862		3129	Legal & General Managed Accum	10827		11397
Abbey International Ser 4	2374		2495	London & Manchester Flexible Acc			
Abbey Managed Ser 4	8507		8935	London Equity	7328		
Abbey National Managed	1960		1943	London Mixed	10084		
Abbey National UK Equity	1879		1758	M & G Managed Bond Acc	7537		
Abbey Equity Acc Ser 3	21015		22438	M & G Recovery Bond Acc	13932		17588
Abbey Multiple Inv Acc B3	10323		10997	Merchant Investors Managed	9720		10317
Allied Dunbar Distribution Bond	3560		2810	Midland Balanced	6969		6388
Allied Dunbar Equity Acc	18015		20018	Midland UK Equity	1081		1153
Allied Dunbar Gen 4 High Income Ser	24530		4580	Nat West Growth Managed	1318		1398
Allied Dunbar Managed Acc	14331		15068	Nat West Security Mgd	1344		1425
Allied Dunbar Property Acc	69180		72720	Nat West UK Equity Acc	1867		1427
AXA Equity & Law Bal Ser 6	9480		9964	Norwich Union Mgd Ex NUAM MF	1722		1806
AXA Equity & Law Bal Ser 8	13940		15540	Norwich Union Unitised Managed	9250		20085
AXA Equity & Law Hi Inc Ser 6	142070		148540	Norwich Union Unitised With Profits	38689		18183
AXA Equity & Law UK Eq Ser 8	142.30		149600	NPI Managed	17186		18063
Barclays Equity Acc	9234		12773	Pearl Equity Net	6353		6885
Barclays International Acc	5008		3223	Pearl Managed	3245		3945
Barclays Managed Acc	6990		7338	Prudential Prudund Managed	3375		3448
Black Horse Income Fund Ser 2	104175		109616	Prudential Indiv Mgd Ser 2	4540		4796
Black Horse Mngd Inv S2	82391		85875	Royal Life Managed	10380		10827
Canada Managed Ser 2	4445		4701	Royal Scottish Growth Managed	5083		5350
CMFIG Equity	3727		3924	Royal Scottish UK Equity	2158		2283
CMFIG Small/Mid/Mixed	1125		1125	Scottish Amicable Equity Ser 1	2260		2369
CM With Profits Bond	23018		24661	Scottish Amicable Managed Ser 1	8205		8633
Confederation Equity I	5318		5484	Scottish Equitable Mixed	6054		6377
Commercial Union Managed	6789		7147	Scottish Life Managed	3413		3593
Commercial Union UK Equity	1408		1483	Scottish Mutual Society	3788		3988
Commercial Union With Profit	2871		2781	Scot Prov Inst Blue Chip	2084		3019
Eagle Star Managed 2	17229		18022	Scot Prov Inst With-Profits	2216		2354
Family Performance	4914		4831	Scottish Widows International	1350		1433
Friends Provident Managed	5684		5981	Scottish Widows Mixed	6154		6453
Friends Provident With Profit	2148		2261	Standard Equity	5927		6945
General Accident With Profit	3036		3722	Standard European	14314		15068
GA Prov Mutual Eq Dnd	10461		10975	Standard Far East	2163		2268
GA Prov Mutual Mgd Gnd	5350		5629	Standard Fixed Interest	1826		1921
Gen Managed	3857		4060	Standard Managed	4750		5000
GRE Equity Acc	1434		1509	Sun Alliance Equity	8822		9200
GRE International Acc	8769		9389	Sun Alliance Managed	12702		13371
GRE Managed Acc	8617		8823	Sun Life Deferred Distribution	3014		3216
Hill Samuel Managed	8313		8737	Sun Life Distribution	2106		2206
Hill Samuel Managed Ser A	7754		7921	Sun Life Equity Acc	3381		3349
Irish Life Global Mgd Prem Ser 3	7934		7351	Sun Life Managed Acc	20845		21811
J Rothschild/SIJ Place Mgd	3328		2935	Sun Life Can Century Eq	1041		12259
Lauriertian Imperial UK Mgd Acc	3488		3681	Sun Life Can Century Mgd		1041	
Lauriertian Managed Acc Ser 3	6548		7218	Sun Life Can Maple Leaf Eq Acc	7461	1574	7601
Lauriertian UK Equity Acc	6380		6848	Sun Life Can Maple Leaf Mgd Acc	9118		9815
Legal & General Equity Acc	10201		10714	TSB Equity	3045		3215
Legal & General International Acc	6714		7068	TSB Homebuyer	2862		3018
				TSB Managed	3733		3940

UNIT TRUST GUIDE

d ex dividend
e exit charge applies when units are sold
buy formerly 'offer'
sell formerly 'bid'
x Non SIB recognised funds

ROYAL ASCOT: An owner receives the opening day credits while on the track a top filly produces an outstanding performance

Sheikh has the Palace credit

RICHARD EDMONDSON

When Sheikh Mohammed speaks so many people jump that the earth probably weighs considerably less for a moment. One of his trainers, David Loder, went so far that he was over the moon yesterday after complying with the owner's instruction to run the victorious Starborough in the St James's Palace Stakes. "I have to say that all the credit for this *win is due* to Sheikh Mohammed because I was very keen to run in France oo Sunday over 10 furlongs but he insisted we come here," Loder said. "He was quite right. This is *the* meeting."

Starborough looked *the* business both before and during racing yesterday. The colt made himself notable in the preliminaries by baying wildly, apparently in *conversatioo* with the outsider, Running Stag. Equally outstanding was his burnished chestnut hide, which appeared to have heeo the work of a French polisher.

Royal Ascot falls at a point of the season for throughbreds that ensures that the buttonholes are not alone in *blooming for the* occasion. The eight runners for yesterday's feature race were mobile artwork as well as athletes, the big-bottomed Desert King and Daylami especially kind on the eye. The latter, a milky grey, wore a white noseband, which was lost on him like plimsolls on a snowman.

It was heat, however, that characterised this year's St James's Palace Stakes from the outset. There were the winners of *four of this* year's European 2,000 Guineas on display but any notion that they would be allowed to prance around perished the moment Frankie Dettori shoved Starborough to the vanguard early on. "He has got a very high cruising speed and there were some horses out there with a greater turn of foot so I wanted to take the sting out of them," the Italian reported.

RICHARD EDMONDSON
NAP: Cadeaux Tryst
(Royal Ascot 4.20)
NB: Humourless
(Royal Ascot 5.30)

By the time the contestants returned towards the tumult of the atands, it became clear that only Air Express retained enough energy in his legs to give Starborough a race. Daylami and Desert King, the French and Irish Guineas winners respectively, were the most disappointing. Their eclipses continued the freak statistic that the trainers Alain de Royer-Dupré and Aidan O'Brien, leading figures in their domestic fields, had yet to saddle a Flat winner in Britain. (The Irishman did, however, clean up his discrepancy 35 minutes later).

It was *left to Air Express,* who had won the tombola prizes of the Italian and German Guineas, to mount a chase. Clive Brittain, his trainer, whose hopefulness is such that he would go hunting 'gator with rod and line, was once again rewarded for his audacity with £40,000-plus in place money. He was not surprised. "If a horse has won two Classics, I don't care if they're in Timbuktu, it means he's a good horse," the Newmarket man said.

Starborough, though, revelling in the new tactics that have been employed with him this season, was even better. "Last year he was a little bit keen at home so we dropped him in for his races to give him a chance," Loder said. "This year we decided to just let him roll and, as you can see, when he gets going he's got a pretty ferocious roll."

The result resuscitated the value of *the English Guineas,* in which Starborough was fourth to Entrepreneur. (Michael Tabor, the latter's owner, reported yesterday that nothing had heeo found amiss medically with his Derby flop and the Irish equivalent could be the next stopping point).

*"He's improved between sev*en and 10 pounds since he ran in the Guineas," Loder said. "We felt that over this stiff mile we could turn the gas on with him and it would take a good one to go past.

"And a beod helps him. If you're in froot it's like when you're running a race yourself and you're at the front of the convoy. You steal a length at every turn and that's what counted in the end today."

All options are now open for Starborough, who even holds an engagement in the Irish Derby, though he is far more likely to run in the Eclipse. But then again Sheikh Mohammed may have in mind a claimer at Nad Al Sheba.

Results, page 31

Dettori: Stole rivals' sting

Homage from Cecil after Sham's show

GREG WOOD

When *certain* jockeys return to the winners' enclosure and insist that their mount is "the best I've ridden", they are met by a chorus of knowing sniggers from an audience which has heard it all a hundred times before. When Henry Cecil offers a similar judgement, however, everyone listens, and *the tight huddle* around the most successful trainer of the last two decades was an oasis of silence here yesterday as Cecil declared Bosra Sham to be *the* finest horse ever to carry one of his saddlecloths.

This, remember, is a man who has prepared 19 English Classic winners, horses like Reference Point and Oh So Sharp, Old Vic, Diminuendo and Wollow, hut after Bosra Sham'a eight-length stroll in *the Prince of Wales's Stakes,* no one was in a mood to argue. "I've never said it before and I almost hate to do it now because so many of them have heen good to me," Cecil said, "hut I think she deserves it now."

Bosra Sham has now won seven of her eight starts, with a sec*ond place to Mark Of Esteem* in last year's Queen Elizabeth II Stakes the only hlemish on an otherwise perfect record. The field for yesterday's race was one of the poorest she has faced, but the hurst of speed which carried her clear in the straight was breathtaking nooe the less, and Cecil is now planning a campaign which could mark her down as ooe of the finest competitors that any of us have seen.

"As we are going to see her for the rest of the year, let's try a*nd appreciate her because we* might oot get another one like this for some time," Cecil said. "She will run next in the Eclipse [at Sandown on 5 July], and then it's whether we go for the Sussex Stakes, or the King George or the International at York. I'm not sure whether to run her over 12 furlongs [in the King George], I'd hate to ruin her. she doesn't deserve it."

To add the King George in her Group One wins at eight aod *10 furlongs* would secure Bosra Sham's place in turf history, and Kieren Fallon, her jockey, is confideot that she has what it takes. "I think she'll stay a mile and a half," Fallon said. "I would prefer to step her up rather than go back to a mile, hut she's got so much speed I *think she* can do either."

For the second year running, a former Cecil resident who now races in the royal blue of Godolphin took the first race of the meeting, the Queeo Anne Stakes, but while Charnwood Forest's win 12 months ago was just one more stopping-off point *on the road to the trainers'* title, it was a much-needed moment of relief for the men from Dubai when Allied Forces held off Centre Stalls yesterday.

"We've been in the wilderness for a long time so it's nice to be back in the winner's enclosure," Simon Crisford, Godolphin's *racing manager, said.* "I don't believe there has beeo a problem, 90 per cent of it has beeo that the horses haven't been good enough and we've beeo asking them to compete at a level that's a little too tough for them. We've decided to move out a lot of older horses, bring in the young players and bring them along for next year."

Another hint for 1998 was Harbour King's success in the Coventry Stakes, a first win on the Flat in Britain for Aidan O'Brien. The nudge, however, may be towards King Of Kings, another of O'Brieo's two-year-*olds,* whom *the trainer* conceded "might have a leogth or two" on Harbour King. A more immediately relevant snippet is that Harbour King is said to be the worst of O'Brieo's four juveniles at Ascot this week.

ROYAL ASCOT

2.30: The unbeaten **Among Men** has a good chance of emulating his sire, Zilzal, by winning this for Michael Stoute, while **Tayseer** is reported to be the best horse in Ed Dunlop's stable. They are both drawn high, however, and **Kahal** and **SHAHEEN** have greater appeal among those berthed on the stands side. The former was a top-class juvenile (for Dunlop) and now that the Godolphin team have hit some form he may be able to win on his seasonal return from wintering in Dubai. The selection broke the track record at Kemptoo last time and is progressing rapidly.

HYPERION'S TV TIPS

3.05: DAUNTING LADY made a huge impression with a runaway win at Chester in a fast time from Heavenly Abstone, who has since validated the form. **Ascot Cyclone** carried a big reputation into her Bath debut, started odds-on and won as she pleased. She is the danger.

3.45: Four of the fillies so comprehensively beaten by **Sleepytime** in the 1,000 Guineas reoppose here and they may not be chasing a lost cause as the favourite is unlikely to get the testing pace that enables her to produce her best. **MOONLIGHT PARADISE,** who was probably carrying an injury when disappointing in the Guineas, may be the one to take advantage, but it is worth remembering that **Khassah** holds a decision over Sleepytime as they were second and third to Reams Of Verse over this track and trip last September. **Rebecca Sharp** is held in high regard by her trainer who has an excellent record at this meeting.

4.20: Yesterday's 28-runner Britannia Stakes over this straight mile failed to confirm any draw advantage, but it would seem best to stick with low numbers, who dominated the finish of last year's Hunt Cup. John Dunlop saddled the first and second in this race in 1986 and his son Ed could well get oear to repeating that feat with **BOLD WORDS** aod **Cadeaux Tryst.** The former must break a poor record by three-year-olds in this event but should be running on well in the closing stages. **Kala Sunrise,** on offer at 50-1 this morning, has prospects of reaching the frame.

ROYAL HUNT CUP – 10-YEAR TALE

	1987	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96
Fate of the favourites:	3	2/18	1	3	28	4/29	19	30	25	1
Winner's place in betting:	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
Starting prices:	10-1	33-1	5-1	50-1	25-1	20-1	25-1	25-1	11-1	8-1
Winning weights:	8.5	9.6	9.4	7.7	8.9	7.8	8.12	8.3	9.0	8.6
Winning draw:	10	14	5	4	30	11	29	30	30	3

Profit or loss to £1 stake: Favourites +£5.00 Second favourites +£7.50

Percentage of winners placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in last race: 50%

Shortest-priced winner: True Panache 5-1 (1989)

Longest-priced winner: Pontenuovo 50-1 (1990)

Top trainer: No trainer has won this race more than once in the past 10 years

Top jockeys: Pat Eddery – True Panache (1989), Imperial Ballet (1993); J Reid – Governorship (1988), Eurolink The Lad (1991)

ROYAL ASCOT

HYPERION

2.30 SHAHEEN (nap) **4.20 Bold Words (nb)**
3.05 *Daunting Lady* ***4.55 Winter Garden***
3.45 Moonlight Paradise **5.30 Wild Rita**

GOING: Good to Firm (Good in places).
STALLS: Straight course – stands side; round course – inside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.
■ *Right-hand course with testing uphill finish.*
■ Course is near junction of A329 and A330. Access from M3 (June 3) and M4 (June 6). Helicopter-landing facility at course (Heathrow 15m). Railway station (service from London, Waterloo) adjoins course. **ADMISSION:** Royal enclosure – unavailable; Grandstand & Paddock sold out; Silver Ring £7; Heath £2. **CAR PARK:** No 9 £7.
■ **LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS:** J Dunlop — 28 winners from 135 runners gives a success ratio of 19.3% and a profit to a £1 level stake of £78.06; J Gosden — 18 winners; 111 runners, 16.2%, -£11.66; M Stoute — 16 winners, 144 runners, 11.1%, -£36.42; R Hannon — 16 winners, 191 runners, 8.41%, -£48.20.
■ **LEADING JOCKEYS:** L Dettori — 30 winners, 201 rides, 14.9%, -£12.08; Pat Eddery — 30 winners, 228 rides, 13.2%, -£37.83; T Quinn — 30 winners, 176 rides, 14.8%, +£14.21; J Reid — 26 winners, 201 rides, 12.4%, -£5.80.
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: *Groom's Gordon (2.30); Windsor Castle (4.55).*
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Crazee Mental (3.05) won at Hamilton on Wednesday; Dreams End (4.20) won at York on Saturday; Winter Garden (4.55) won at Salisbury on Wednesday.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS (within GB): Filey Brigg (3.05) has been sent 387 miles by W Kemp from Duns, Borders.

2.30 JERSEY STAKES (GROUP 3) (CLASS A) £50,000 added 3YO 7f Penalty Value £34,700 BBC1

1	11	AMONG MEN (25) (M Tabor & Mrs J Magnier) M Stoute 8 13	M J Kinane 13 109
2	016-41	ANDREYEV (33) (CD) (J Palmer-Brown) R Hannon 8 13	R Hughes 10 97
3	23-11	CAPTAIN COLLINS (29) (D) (R E Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 8 10	J Reid 21 87
4	311-24	CRYHAVOC (24) (A H Robinson) J Arnold 8 10	S Sanders 9 101
5	40-250	GROOM'S GORDON (FR) (30) (D) (Mrs H Focke) J Dunlop 8 10	T Quinn 8 B 93
6	45-1	HORNBEAM (31) (D) (K C Payne) J Jenkins 8 10	R Cochrane 11 101
7	1-15	INDISCREET (CAN) (29) (Mrs Virginia Kraft Payson) D Loder 8 10	O Peslier 4 101
8	215-	KAHAL (243) (CD) (BF) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 8 10	L Dettori 2 115
9	21-32	MAN HOWA (25) (BF) (Sheikh Ahmed Al Maktoum) L Cumani 8 10	Pat Eddery 15 112
10	111-51	NIGHTBIRD (19) (D) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 8 10	J Weaver 14 123
11	643-05	OMAHA CITY (33) (Brian Gubby Ltd) B Gubby 8 10	A Clark 8 95
12	16-210	PEARTREE HOUSE (24) (D) (Fayzad Thoroughbreds) W Muir 8 10	M Roberts 11 101
13	02	SATIN STONE (USA) (18) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 8 10	G Hind 20 96
14	3221	SHAHEEN (USA) (15) (D) (Thoroughbred Corporation) H Cecil 8 10	K Fallon 7 101
15	15610	SUPERCAL (27) (D) (Caledonian Racing Society) D Elsworth 8 10	D Holland 1 102
16	341-1	TAYSEER (USA) (24) (D) (Hilal Salem) E Dunlop 8 10	W Ryan 19 102
17	610-	WIND CHEETAH (USA) (243) (Cheveley Park Stud) M Stoute 8 10	G Stevens 10 110
18	2301-1	WOLF MOUNTAIN (22) (Lord Carnarvon) R Hannon 8 10	doubtful 22 110
19	21-41	MESHHED (USA) (16) (D) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) B Hanbury 8 7	R Hills 8 123
20	115-14	TUMBLEWEED PEARL (33) (W S Farish III) B Meehan 8 7	B Doyle 15 93
21	502101	VIA VERBANO (16) (D) (D H W Dobson) J Bolger 8 7	S Craine 17 116
22	310-34	WELL WARNED (16) (BF) (K Abdulla) B Hills 8 7	M Hills 5 112

– 22 declared –

BETTING: 11-2 Among Men, 6-1 Kahal, 7-1 Nightbird, 15-2 Tayseer, 8-1 Meshhed, 9-1 Shaheen, 14-1 Man Howa, Via Verbano, 16-1 Andreyev, Captain Collins, Satin Stone, Wind Cheetah, 20-1 others
1996: Lucayan Prince 8 10 R Hughes 50-1 (D Loder) drawn (2) 16 ran

FORM GUIDE

MAN HOWA, out of a Rainbow Quest mare who won over ten furlongs, should enjoy this first tilt over seven furlongs. He looked less forward than his stablemate, Grapeshot, in Yeshmak's Newmarket maiden just under a year ago, but found a decent turn of foot to close on the winner in the closing stages, filling second spot. Man Howa's two runs this term have both been at Haydock and although the form gives him something to find to win this, he has shaped well. On the first occasion he was beaten in a three-way photo despite carrying condition on his first start for nine months and, on the second, he was caught by Tomba only inside the final furlong. *It hurts to desert* **Among Men,** *who took the Heron Stakes* at Kempton. He got home by a short-head the second time after finding trouble, but even a literal interpretation of the form is decent because the runner-up, Amid Albadu, had previously won a good class, 18-runner handicap at Newbury when the second, **Peartree House,** finished ten lengths clear of the third. Being so lightly-raced and having to cope with a drop in distance, Among Men might just be found out, but he had to battle at Kempton and that race will have taught him plenty. **Indiscreet,** heavily touted through the winter, was a major disappointment at Goodwood last time when fifth to Grapeshot. **Shaheen** had not done much wrong in defeat prior to winning a seven-furlong Kempton maiden from **Satin Stone** in a very fast time and he must be feared with Henry Cecil boasting two Jersey victories on his extensive Royal Ascot roll of honour. **Kahal** looks every inch a colt who will blossom as a three-year-old and this good mover, fifth in the Dewhurst Stakes, is definitely one for the short-list. Stablemate **Nightbird** has plenty of speed, but should be effective at this trip, while **Tayseer** is certainly progressive. **Captain Collins** will prefer this ground to the more testing terrain he found at Goodwood last time, but he is by no means a straightforward character.

Selection: MAN HOWA

3.05 QUEEN MARY STAKES (GROUP 3) (CLASS A) £40,000 added 2YO 5f Penalty Value £27,040 BBC1

1	1	ASCOT CYCLONE (USA) (19) (Salem Bel Obaida) B Hills 8 8	M Hills 10 —
2	113124	BANNINGHAM BLADE (12) (D) (Crown Select) K Ivory 8 8	Martin Dwyer 15 100
3	415	BODFARIDISTINCTION (33) (D) (BF) (Bodfari Stud Ltd) A Bailey 8 8	O Peslier 14 86
4	3	CHILD PRODIGY (30) (BF) (R E Sangster) J W Watts 8 8	J Reid 9 98
5	21	COMPRADORE (21) (D) (Mrs James Wellons) M Blanshard 8 8	J Quinn 10 102
6	31	CRAZEE MENTAL (7) (Hugh O'Donnell) D Haydn Jones 8 8	J Carroll 13 82
7	11	DAUNTING LADY (43) (D) (E Nagell-Enchsen & T Dale) R Hannon 8 8	Pat Eddery 2 108
8	2	ELEONORA D'ARBOREA (9) (BF) (Ettore Landi) B Meehan 8 8	M J Kinane 11 92
9	312641	FILEY BRIGG (14) (D) (Dorlemyn Racing) W Kemp 8 8	J Fortune 4 97
10	20	FOLKLORE (14) (BF) (Sheikh Mohammed) D Loder 8 8	K Darley 17 100
11	12	FOREST TREASURE (14) (D) (Mrs John Magnier) J Berry 8 8	G Carter 18 99
12	214216	HEAVENLY ABSTONE (14) (D) (J E Abbey) P D Evans 8 8	J F Egan 3 V 92
13	11	HEEREMANDI (16) (M Tabor & Mrs J Magnier) A P O'Brien (Ire) 8 8	C Roche 5 107
14	56	JAY GEE (23) (John Guest) G Margarson 8 8	G Bardwell 7 87
15	2315	KILCORA (14) (D) (Dr A Haloute) C Dwyer 8 8	D Harrison 6 104
16	21	MUGELLO (9) (D) (Mrs A Jarvis) A Jarvis 8 8	K Fallon 12 104
17	13	NADWAH (USA) (22) (D) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) P Walwyn 8 8	R Hills 1 103
18	212	PACIFICA (33) (D) (T J Wells) R Boss 8 8	L Dettori 3 98

– 18 declared –

BETTING: 2-1 Heeremandi, 3-1 Daunting Lady, 10-1 Ascot Cyclone, Mugello, Nadwah, Pacifica, 14-1 Forest Treasure, 16-1 Child Prodigy, 25-1 Banningham Blade, Eleonora D'Arborea, 33-1 others
1996: Dance Parade 8 8 M J Kinane 8-1 (P Cole) drawn (2) 13 ran

FORM GUIDE

No doubt **Daunting Lady** is a decent filly, but she had the plum draw when beating her stablemate, Phone Alex, on her Sandown debut and then sauntered to a five-length win from Heavenly Abstone and Kilcora in soft ground at Chester – form which is also difficult to assess. **HEEREMANDI** is Aidan O'Brien's pick of three five-day entries and it is easy to see why after her impressive Fairyhouse and Leopardstown wins. This daughter of Royal Academy will test the best of these. **Ascot Cyclone** is *impossible to assess after landing an odds-on debut win from 13 rivals at Bath.* Her home reputation is good and yet the Bath form has yet to be given a proper boost. **Compradore's** form has some merit because she has beaten colts as well as running second to a good one, Pool Music, at Salisbury in May. **Mugello** was an eye-catching winner at Warwick last time from **Eleonora D'Arborea,** while **Banningham Blade,** who cost only 600gns, has been a starlet for Ken Ivory and managed *to finish* in front of **Nadwah,** who ran a fine race nevertheless, in Pool Music's National Stakes at Sandown.

Selection: HEEREMANDI

3.45 CORONATION STAKES (GROUP 1) (CLASS A) £150,000 3YO 1m (round) Pen Value £121,200 BBC1

1	200-11	CLASSIC PARK (25) (D) (Mrs Seamus Burns) A O'Brien (Ire) 9 0	S Craine 2 119
2	1612-0	KHASSAH (45) (C) (D) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) J Gosden 9 0	R Hills 1 108
3	1221-0	MOONLIGHT PARADISE (USA) (45) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 9 0	L Dettori 5 119
4	2143-5	OCEAN RIDGE (USA) (45) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 9 0	G Stevens 6 117
5	2-10	REBECCA SHARP (45) (A E Oppenheimer) G Wragg 9 0	M Hills 3 92
6	13-41	SLEEPYTIME (45) (D) (Greenbay Stables Ltd) H Cecil 9 0	K Fallon 4 124

– 6 declared –

BETTING: 4-7 Sleepytime, 9-2 Classic Park, 11-2 Khassah, 9-1 Moonlight Paradise, 14-1 Ocean Ridge, 33-1 Rebecca Sharp
1996: Shake The Yoke 9 0 O Peslier evens fav (E Lellouche, Fr) drawn (4) 7 ran

FORM GUIDE

SLEEPYTIME is said by Henry Cecil to look better than she did at 1,000 Guineas time, although most of the others *probably* do too. And Cecil is surely quite right to overlook her Fred Darling Stakes defeat over the round course at *Newbury* as "just one of those things". Racing over round courses always involves a certain amount of luck with a *ground-saving* passage close to the rail being such a sought-after location. At Newbury, Kieren Fallon had nowhere to go when the pace quickened, but everything came good in the first Classic in which **Ocean Ridge** was fifth, **Khassah** eighth, **Moonlight Paradise** ninth and **Rebecca Sharp** 13th. Some of those behind are likely to have progressed in the interim but a four-length winning margin brooks no argument and Sleepytime can lay the ghost of last September's third (just behind Khassah) in the Fillies' Mile when she had all the bad luck going behind her successful stablemate, Reams Of Verse. **Classic Park's** Irish 1,000 victory was a shock. She was beaten a few times last year, including when tried in blinkers, and her dam's best form was as a juvenile. **Selection:** SLEEPYTIME

4.20 ROYAL HUNT CUP (HANDICAP) (CLASS B) £65,000 1m (straight) Penalty Value £59,200 BBC2

1	244-32	RAMOOZ (USA) (44) (D) (Hilal Salem) B Hanbury 4 8 10	W Ryan 8 109
2	034-21	TREGARON (USA) (49) (CD) (D Helin Jones) R Akehurst 8 9 7	T Quinn 14 108
3	6-6220	LONELY LEADER (27) (Salem Suhail) R Hannon 4 9 6	Dane O'Neill 30 110
4	320550	CELESTIAL KEY (USA) (35) (D) (Markus Graff) M Johnston 7 9 4	J Weaver 28 104
5	14-003	CADEAUX TRYST (33) (D) (BF) (Maktoum Al Maktoum) E Dunlop 5 9 4	R Hills 2 108
6	300-00	GENERAL ACADEMY (23) (General Horse Advertising) P Kelleway 4 9 2	D Harrison 20 98
7	510-21	HAWKSLEY HILL (60) (D) (P R C Morrison) Mrs J Ramsden 4 9 2	J Fortune 22 105
8	203-00	KAYVEE (23) (CD) (J H Richmond-Watson) Mrs A Perrett 8 9 2	A Clark 23 106
9	220-10	HAL'S PAL (23) (D) (W Said) D Loder 4 9 0	K Darley 26 103
10	100-31	GOLD SPATS (USA) (29) (D) (Cheveley Park Stud) M Stoute 4 8 12	J Reid 21 103
11	10-152	BOLD WORDS (CAN) (23) (D) (Maktoum Al Maktoum) E Dunlop 3 8 12	K Fallon 7 108
12	/12-30	NAJM MUBEEN (23) (D) (BF) (Ahmed Al Maktoum) A Stewart 4 8 11	M Roberts 3 100
13	250-60	LAW COMMISSION (29) (C) (R Tooth) D Elsworth 7 8 9	D Holland 11 102
14	313-04	CRUMPTON HILL (23) (D) (T H Chadney) N Graham 5 8 8	R Cochrane 4 106
15	5131-0	GATES (USA) (73) (D) (Michael H Watt) D Weld (Ir) 4 8 8	M J Kinane 1 —
16	3130-2	CROWN COURT (40) (D BF) (Lt Dr La Warr & M Ker-Dineen) L Cumani 4 8 7	Pat Eddery 16 111
17	5-0253	FORZA FIGLIO (12) (D) (Grd T'bred Racing) Gay Kelleway 4 8 6	S Sanders 6 104
18	01-340	SAIFAN (11) (D) (BF) (Mrs L Brook) D Morris 8 8 6	N Day 29 B 108
19	1-5032	KALA SUNRISE (29) (D) (A E Needham) C Smith 4 8 6	J F Egan 10 113
20	5/30-0	RED ROBBO (CAN) (84) (Lucayan Stud) R Akehurst 4 8 6	O Peslier 17 98
21	1122-2	DANCING IMAGE (27) (D) (The Queen) I Balding 4 8 5	L Dettori 3 94
22	45-155	ANOTHER TIME (23) (D) (D Sullivan) S Woods 5 8 4	D Biggs 13 101
23	005-05	SKY DOME (60) (D) (Miss D J Merson) M Tompkins 4 8 4	M Henry (3) 32 105
24	15300	VANISHING DAY (28) (Mrs J Chapple-Hyam) P Chapple-Hyam 5 8 3	D O'Donohoe (3) 11 —
25	42-361	KING OF TUNES (11) (CD) (Mrs E Sheehan) J Sheehan 5 8 2 (7ex)	S Drowne 31 107
26	44-361	DREAMS END (4) (T G Price) P Bowen 8 8 2 (7ex)	G Carter 9 113
27	213-00	YALTA (31) (D) (BF) (Lord Weinstock) R Charlton 4 8 1	T Sprake 24 103
28	1156-3	MAWINGO (25) (D) (BF) (Mrs Claude Lilley) G Wragg 4 8 0	J Quinn 27 94
29	604033	IAMUS (11) (D) (M P Burke's Family Settlement) T D Barron 4 8 0	R Mullen (5) 19 109
30	30-245	ARTERXERXES (29) (P G Lowe & Partners) M Heaton-Ellis 4 8 0	J Lowe 25 102
31	31-033	POMONA (11) (D) (Skyline Racing Ltd) P Makin 4 8 0	D R McCabe 15 105
32	060620	TERTIUM (11) (D) (John Barton) M Wane 5 7 12	A Whelan (3) 18 100

– 32 declared –

BETTING: 10-1 Bold Words, Gold Spats, Hawksley Hill, 11-1 Mawingo, Tregaron, 12-1 Crown Court, Dancing Image, 16-1 Crumpton Hill, Yalta, 18-1 Dreams End, Gates, Red Robbo, 25-1 others
1996: Yeast 4 8 8 K Fallon 8-1 fav (W Haggas) drawn (3) 31 ran

FORM GUIDE

The first four home last year were drawn 3-2-1-4, but there is enough conflicting evidence to suggest that the high numbers might hold sway this time, especially with most of the trail-blazing talent berthed towards the far side. Drawn 32 is **Sky Dome** and Mark Tompkins makes no secret of the fact that this front-runner, whose good form last year included a 12th of 38 in the Cambridgeshire when drawn the wrong side, is expected to run a big race. But **HAWKSLEY HILL,** drawn 22, just keeps on getting better. Perhaps he was lucky to get the Newbury Spring Cup in the stewards' room after passing the post two lengths behind Hunters Of Brora, but he still ran a marvellous race from a poor draw. He might have won the Lincoln but for hanging into the whip and this big, scopey gelding clicked six times last term, including the Rothmans North-South Final at Newmarket in the autumn. **Yalta** would have been a serious fancy with cut in the ground, but likely to do better in the circumstances is **Mawingo,** who produced a strong burst at the end of Waypoint's Doncaster handicap (7f) last month. This cavalry charge is surely going to suit Mawingo, while **Gold Spats** makes solid each-way appeal after last month's cosy win in a Goodwood handicap. He shaped as if he had trained on well when third to Autumn Cover in a Kempton *handicap on his reappearance.* **Crumpton Hill** *won a competitive handicap at Newmarket* last July and has a good turn of foot when allowing himself to be settled and covered up, while Sean Woods regards **Another Time** as the right type for these strongly-run, big-field handicaps. **Bold Words** found the race coming too soon after his Ripon win when tried in Listed company at Newmarket afterwards, but has since beaten a few of these in finishing second to Insatiable at Sandown and looks to have a good attitude. **Crown Court** might just need a shade more give in the ground at this trip, but **Tregaron** has the form to go well and **Dancing Image** came back from a lengthy absence to run second to Gadge in a seven-furlong handicap at Goodwood and both his wins have come over a mile. With Frankie Dettori donning the Royal silks, Dancing Image will bring the roof down if successful.

Selection: HAWKSLEY HILL

4.55 QUEEN'S VASE (GROUP 3) (CLASS A) £50,000 added 3YO 2m 45yds Penalty Value £32,450

1	31	ASSURED GAMBLE (33) (Peter A Head) C Brittain 8 11	B Doyle 8
2	12-	ELDORADO (228) (BF) (R W Huggins) M Johnston 8 11	Doubtful 3
3	20-033	FLETCHER (7) (Lady Mangadale) H Morrison 8 11	R Hughes 7
4	04-421	FLIRTING AROUND (USA) (38) (Maktoum Al Maktoum) M Stoute 8 11	J Reid 10
5	1	PUBLIC PURSE (USA) (21) (K Abdullah) A Fabre (Fr) 8 11	O Peslier 1
6	51-43	SAUSALITO BAY (15) (J C Smith) I Balding 8 11	R Cochrane 5
7	13-003	SHII-TAKE (29) (Clive Batt) R Akehurst 8 11	A Clark 2
8	110-30	STATE FAIR (24) (Ray Richards) B Hills 8 11	M Hills 11
9	0-31	THREE CHEERS (18) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 8 11	L Dettori 9 V
10	11-52	WINDSOR CASTLE (36) (H R H Prince Fahd Salman) P Cole 8 11	T Quinn 12 B
11	0-5121	WINTER GARDEN (6) (Sheikh Mohammed) L Cumani 8 11	Pat Eddery 6
12	420	BOOK AT BEDTIME (12) (R M Cyzer) C Cyzer 8 8	K Fallon 4

– 12 declared –

BETTING: 4-1 Winter Garden, 5-1 Public Purse, 6-1 Flirting Around, 13-2 Shii-Take, 8-1 Eldorado, Three Cheers, 10-1 State Fair, 12-1 others
1996: Gordi 3 8 11 M J Kinane 7-1 (D Weld, Ir) drawn (4) 14 ran

FORM GUIDE

If ever a horse has been crying out for two *miles* it is **Windsor Castle,** who is closely related to the smart Grape Tree Road. Windsor Castle's staying power came to his rescue last season when tried *over* nine and ten furlongs and he got going too late when pipped by **Flirting Around** over 14 furlongs at York last time. Just preferred, though, is the Old Vic colt **WINTER GARDEN,** who had been progressing well prior to winning a minor conditions event, making all, at Salisbury only last Wednesday. He probably should have won over 12 furlongs at Newbury the time before (Frankie Dettori might have been guilty of over-confidence) *and this staying test should suit him. Anything André Fabre brings here must be* feared and **Public Purse** spreadeagled the opposition over an extended ten furlongs at Saint-Cloud last month. In terms of sheer competition, this looks one of the weaker Vases of recent years and Public Purse should go close. **Book At Bedtime** strikes me as a filly who needs a long trip and she may surprise a few, while **Assured Gamble** and **Three Cheers** are progressive types and Assured Gamble is by Rock Hopper out of a mare who *won over middle distances-plus.* **Selection:** WINTER GARDEN

5.30 BESSBOROUGH STAKES (HANDICAP) (CLASS B) £40,000 added 1m 4f Penalty Value £29,180

1	30100-	BETTER OFFER (221) (CD) (Lady Harrison) Mrs A Perrett 5 10 0	M J Kinane 18
2	3-1262	NABHAAN (18) (D) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) D Morley 4 9 9	R Hills 13
3	-41020	KUALA LIPIS (USA) (23) (H R H Sultan Ahmad Shah) P Cole 4 8 4	T Quinn 2
4	1/03-5	WAHIBA SANDS (34) (Lord Swaythling) J Dunlop 4 9 4	K Darley 8
5	4/12-3	HUMOURLESS (27) (Sheikh Mohammed) L Cumani 4 9 3	L Dettori 5
6	5/0140	ROCKFORCE (11) (G Z Mizel) M Channon 5 9 1	R Hughes 12
7	45-336	ROKEBY BOWL (28) (Paul Mellon) I Balding 5 8 13	Martin Dwyer (3) 10
8	-00013	HOH EXPRESS (11) (D) (D F Allport) I Balding 5 8 13	M Hills 20
9	200-5	ZARALASKA (95) (D) (Fittocks Stud Limited) L Cumani 8 8 13	Pat Eddery 4
10	1151-0	WILLIE CONQUER (11) (D) (R Tooth) R Akehurst 5 8 11	A Clark 3
11	311-02	TYKEYVOR (13) (CD) (BF) (Seymour Bloodstock Ltd) Lady Herries 7 8 11	G Stevens 9
12	142-52	GROUND GAME (25) (Mrs P T Fenwick) D Loder 4 8 10	O Peslier 17
13	15512-	OOPS PETTIE (257) (BF) (Mrs O MacRae) Mrs J Cecil 4 8 9	R Cochrane 15
14	00-461	FAR AHEAD (13) (D) (Sunpak Potatoes) J L Eyre 5 8 7	R Lappin 8
15	04-001	WHITECHAPEL (USA) (33) (CD) (The Queen) Lord Huntingdon 8 8 7	D Harrison 11
16	62-003	DOCKLANDS LIMO (31) (Mrs Lisa Olley) B McMath 4 8 4	G Bardwell 16
17	2020-5	WILD RITA (88) (D) (Perspicacious Punters Racing Club) W Muir 5 8 4	Dane O'Neill 7
18	110-64	BERLIN BLUE (35) (D) (Sheikh Mohammed) J W Watts 4 8 3	J Carroll 1
19	00561-	FILIAL (195) (D) (Miss J Semple) B Meehan 4 8 3	B Doyle 19
20	-00011	MAZUREK (34) (D) (Kennmac Plc) M Pipe 4 8 1	Paul Eddery 14

– 20 declared –

BETTING: 7-1 Humourless, Wahiba Sands, Zaralaska, 8-1 Mazurek, 10-1 Tykeyvor, Whitechapel, 14-1 Ground Game, Hoh Express, Nabhaan, Willie Conqueror, 16-1 Better Offer, 20-1 others
1996: Tykeyvor 8 8 1 F Lynch (5) 14-1 (Lady Herries) drawn (14) 20 ran

FORM GUIDE

TYKEVOR is 6lb higher than when on the mark in this race 12 months ago, but he won by three lengths then and he gives Gary Stevens a good chance of a winner. Tykeyvor was short-headed by Far Ahead in a four-runner handicap at Beverley last time, but the run will have put him spot-on and there is every chance he is as good as at this stage last year. The ground is perfect, too. **Willie Conquer** also wants fast going and he was fifth to Better Offer in a valuable handicap here over the trip last September. His pipe-opener will have put *him right,* although he gets a only a 3lb pull with Better Offer who bids for a third course win. **Zaralaska** remains interesting in these middle-distance handicaps, while his stablemate **Humourless** will coming back from a year off when a good third to Hoh Express at Goodwood last month. **Selection:** TYKEVOR

NOTTINGHAM

HYPERION

6.50 Dancing Cavalier 7.20 Princess Efisio 7.50 Conectis 8.20 Tracking 8.50 High Desire 9.20 Phoenix Princess

GOING: Good (Good to Soft in places).
STALLS: 5f & 6f – stands side; remainder – inside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers may be best for 1m.
■ Left-hand, oval course. Flat and galloping with easy turns.
■ Course is 2m E of city off B686. Station 2m. **ADMISSION:** Club £12 (Juniors, 16-21 years, £8); Tattersalls £8; Silver Ring & Paddock £4. **CAR PARK:** free.
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Rumbustious & Schisandra (9.20); Demolition Jo (visored, 8.20); Spring Campaign (visored, 8.50).
WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: *Chayanee's Arena (8.20)* sent 222 miles by A Newcombe from Hunshaw, Devon.

6.50 SHADWELL STUD APPRENTICE HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,300 added 1m 6f SKY

1	-00105	TURGENEV (25) (D) R Bastiman 8 9 12	H Bastiman 3 8
2	154606	DANCING CAVALIER (11) (CD) R Hollinshead 4 8 8	P Fredericks (5) 8
3	1254-0	SHERIFF (50) J Hills 6 9 3	Sam Dickerson (7) 10
4	31-004	SPA LANE (13) (CD) M Bielby 4 9 0	D Sweeney 2
5	00-322	MYSTIC QUEST (22) (BF) K McAuliffe 3 8 11	T Field (5) 8
6	00665-	EARLY PEACE (J235) M Dods 5 8 10	S Copp 5
7	013/0-	MY ROSSINI (J123) (CD) P Bevan 8 8 10	D Denby 8
8	00000-	NEEDWOOD EPIC (229) B Morgan 4 8 9	D Hayden (7) 4
9	05-501	ROSE OF GLENN (19) (D) B Palling 8 8 6	A Daly 1
10	403-00	WESLEY'S LAD (30) J Neville 3 8 2	P P Murphy 7

– 10 declared –

BETTING: 11-4 Mystic Quest, 3-1 Dancing Cavalier, 4-1 My Rossini, 6-1 Rose Of Glenn, 8-1 Turgenev, Wesley's Lad, 12-1 Spa Lane, 16-1 others

7.20 KPMG PASAS HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 1m 54yds SKY

1	00-440	LYNTON LAD (22) C Brooks 5 8 13	R Perham 2
2	244-40	BON LUCK (30) J Bennett 5 9 13	T Sprake 18
3	6-6000	ROYAL SOUTH (33) P Felgate 4 9 11	P McCabe (3) 9
4	2-3516	BEN GUNN (21) P Walwyn 5 9 11	R Price 13
5	000062	THERHEA (6) (D) (BF) B Millman 4 9 8	A Whelan (3) 8
6	00-000	MYBOTYE (66) B Bastiman 4 9 8	H Bastiman (5) 1
7	020-00	SAND STAR (13) D Haydn Jones 5 8 8	S Whitworth 3
8	-06060	UP IN FLAMES (21) (D) S Bowring 8 9 8	S Webster 8
9	200-00	FLOTILLA (18) S Mellor 3 8 5	M Wigham 13
10	25-051	PRINCESS EFISIO (13) B McMahon 4 9 6	G Duffield 10
11	450405	KINGCHIP BOY (14) (D) M Ryan 8 9 5	R Mullen (5) 6 V
12	605006	SCENICRIS (14) (CD) B Hollinshead 4 9 5	F Lynch 4
13	250	THE NEGOTIATOR (33) M Heaton-Ellis 3 9 4	S Drowne 15
14	000/	YOUNG DALESMAN (601) A Streeter 4 9 4	L Newton 7
15	553110	POWER GAME (9) (D) J Berry 4 9 3	G Carter 17 8
16	004-00	CLASSIC BALLET (22) (D) B Guest 4 9 1	W J O'Connor 14
17	60-600	KARINSKA (J25) (D) M Chapman 7 9 1	F Norton 11
18	560-00	LUCKY BEGONIA (22) W Musson 4 8 12	M Rimmer 18

– 18 declared –

BETTING: 5-1 Princess Efisio, 11-2 The Negotiator, 13-2 Therhea, 8-1 Ben Gunn, Flotilla, Kingchip Boy, 10-1 Scenicris, Lucky Begonia, 10-1 others

7.50 TATTERSALLS AUCTION STAKES (CLASS E) £4,025 added 2YO 5f SKY

1	0	ACID TEST (9) W Muir 8 11	F Lynch 9
2		THE LIMPING CAT B Morgan 8 8	S Whitworth 12
3	0	JULIES JEWEL (34) M Chapman 8 7	S Drowne 3
4	22	TANGERINE FLYER (9) J Berry 8 7	P Roberts (5) 16
5	4	THE GROVELLER (12) P D Evans 8 7	J F Egan 8
6		ASHANGEM Bob Jones 8 6	N Day 4
7		CAPE HOPE R Boss 8 6	G Duffield 7
8	04	FLAME TOWER (9) B Hannon 8 6	W J O'Connor 11
9	03	JACOBINA (14) T D Barron 8 2	J Tate 10
10	2526	CONECTIS (12) D Cosgrove 8 1	G Carter 1
11	32	SANS RIVALE (16) B Meehan 8 1	C Rutter 5
12	60	SCOLDING (18) K Morgan 8 0	F Norton 10
13	0	TEMPUS FUGIT (19) B B Millman 8 0	T Sprake 2
14		DOUBLE POWER L Lloyd-James 7 13	N Adams 3
15		ITALIAN ROSE W Musson 7 13	J Quinn 15
16	06	WILD LILLY (10) M Ryan 7 13	R Mullen (5) 14

– 16 declared –

BETTING: *7-4 Conectis, 7-2 Sans Rivale, 4-1 Tangerine Flyer, 8-1 Flame Tower, 10-1 The Groveller, Jacobina, 16-1 Cape Hope, 20-1 others*

8.20 EBF NOVICE STAKES (CLASS D) £4,850 added 2YO 6f SKY

1		TRACKING H Cecil 8 12	K Fallon 5
2		CHAYANEE'S ARENA A Newcombe 8 7	S Drowne 4
3	50	CHERISHED (9) P Cole 8 7	T Quinn 1
4	42222	DEMOLITION JO (2) (BF) P D Evans 8 7	J F Egan 3 V
5	0	MAKE BELIEVE (19) B Charlton 8 7	T Sprake 6
6	502	POSITIVE AIR (40) B McMahon 8 7	G Duffield 2

– 6 declared –

BETTING: 2-1 Tracking, 5-2 Demolition Jo, 9-2 Cherished, 5-1 Positive Air, 6-1 Make Believe, 66-1 Chayanee's Arena

8.50 BURTON JOYCE SELLING HANDICAP (CLASS G) £2,875 added 1m 2f

1	0-0000	LILA PEDIGO (40) (D) Miss J Craze 4 9 10	O Pears (3) 15
2	440301	ARZANI (USA) (23) (D) D Cosgrove 6 9 8	M Rimmer 7
3	200220	SANDMOOR DENIM (9) S R Bowring 10 9 6	S Webster 8
4	15000/	BIG PAT (594) (D) J O'Shea 8 9 6	R Mullen (5) 11
5	40-006	HIGH DESIRE (8) J Arnold 4 9 5	Martin Dwyer (3) 13
6	600-00	SPRING CAMPAIGN (23) M Pipe 4 9 4	T Quinn 14 V
7	32435/	SULE MOR (J815) B Millman 5 9 3	T Sprake 17
8	00-500	PRECEDENCY (9) K McAuliffe 5 8 2	J F Egan 8
9	003054	RIVER RUN (9) (D) R Hollinshead 5 9 2	F Lynch 12
10	/0000-	FOREIGN JUDGEMENT (J82) W Musson 4 9 0	B Doyle 5
11	-00003	RACING HAWK (4) (CD) M Saunders 5 8 13	R Price 10
12	6-2053	DIAMOND CROWN (9) (CD) M Wane 6 8 12	K Fallon 2
13	000-00	CONIC HILL (17) (D) J Pearce 8 8 11	G Bardwell 3
14	300400	WHOTHEHELLISHARRY (9) P Dalton 4 8 11	P McCabe (3) 1
15	4500/0	OPERA FAN (19) K Morgan 5 8 11	J Quinn 16
16	0-4005	MONEGHETTI (18) J L Harris 8 8 10	G Duffield 8
17	040	WHELDON (11) S C Williams 3 8 8	S Drowne 18
18	0-004	AQUAVITA (20) B Hannon 3 8 8	W J O'Connor 4

– 18 declared –

BETTING: 9-2 Arzani, 5-1 Aquavita, 7-1 High Desire, Wheldon, 15-2 Diamond Crown, Sandmoor Denim, 10-1 River Run, 12-1 others

9.20 OLD LENTON HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 3YO fillies 1m 54yds

1	00-03	WELCOME HOME (44) P Dalton 9 7	J F Egan 9
2	00-406	SAFFRON ROSE (12) M Blanshard 9 5	J Quinn 6
3	80-032	CALAMANDER (21) (BF) W Muir 9 5	K Fallon 13
4	520023	ENCHANTING EVE (25) (D) C Allen 8 3	Martin Dwyer (3) 1
5	6-0001	RUMBUSTIOUS (11) (D) R Hannon 9 2	W J O'Connor 3 B
6	25-05	TETRIS (30) C Wall 8 2	N Carlisle 4
7	55-000	DAINTREE (16) H Collingridge 8 11	M Rimmer 10
8	355302	ROCHEA (16) Mrs N Macauley 8 7	B Doyle 8
9	0-0054	NATIVE PRINCESS (15) B Hills 8 6	G Carter 2
10	-00006	KUSTOM KIT XPRES (11) S Bowring 8 6	S Webster 11
11	0443	PHOENIX PRINCESS (13) (BF) B McMahon 8 5	G Duffield 7
12	0000-0	SCHISANDRA (37) M Fetherston-Godley 7 10	F Norton 12 B
13	0000	GLORIOUS DANCER (12) J Hetherton 7 10	N Adams 5

– 13 declared –

BETTING: 7-2 Rumbustious, 4-1 Native Princess, 6-1 Phoenix Princess, 13-2 Calamander, 7-1 Saffron Rose, Tetris, 12-1 others

RIPON

HYPERION

7.00 Prime Partner 7.30 Shawdon 8.00 Opalette 8.30 Double Action 9.00 Vain Tempest 9.30 Machiavelli

GOING: Good. **DRAW ADVANTAGE:** None.
STALLS: Straight course – stands side; round course – inside.
■ Right-hand course. A sharp track with tight bends.
■ Course is 8 of city on B6265. **ADMISSION:** Club £12; Tattersalls £8; Silver Ring £4; Course £2. **CAR PARK:** Free.
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Guy's Gamble (7.00); The Lambton Worm (8.30); Our Tom (visored, 7.00).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Opalette (8.00) has been sent 277 miles by Lady Herries from Angmering Park, West Sussex.

7.00 NORTHALLERTON APPRENTICE SELLING HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,500 added 1m SKY

1	2000-0	SPECIAL-K (18) (CD) E Weymes 5 8 10	T Siddall (5) 1
2	U-0430	HARRY'S TREAT (83) J L Eyre 5 9 4	S Buckley (5) 16
3	024055	FLAGSTAFF (USA) (26) K Burke 4 8 0	P Wright (7) 12 V
4	230002	BEDAZZLE (5) (D) M Brittain 8 8 11	D Mernagh (5) 10
5	6-0000	POLAR REFRAIN (23) J Norton 4 8 11	Jenny Benson (5) 14 B
6	0-4000	GROVEFAIR LAD (8) M Wane 3 8 11	P Doe (3) 2
7	-40000	GUY'S GAMBLE (19) J Wharton 4 8 10	Kimberley Hart 8 B
8	550006	BALI-PET (18) (D) J Parkes 3 8 10	doubtful 3 B
9	000040	NOBLE CANONIRE (66) D Shaw 5 8 10	S Righton (5) 5 B
10	06-060	PRIME PARTNER (14) T Easterby 4 8 9	R Winston (3) 10
11	00-000	OUR TOM (34) (D) J Wharton 5 8 8	Victoria Appleby (3) 17 V
12	0-0620	CHALKY DANCER (16) H Collingridge 5 8 8	J Wilkinson 7
13	0-0002	OKAY BABY (15) (D) J Bradley 5 8 2	J Hermann B
14	0-0000	BAD NEWS (13) J Bradley 5 8 1	Aimee Cook 10
15	652003	NUKUD (USA) (28) G Oldroyd 5 7 13	N Pollard (5) 8
16	0000	INTERACTION (22) R Craggs 3 7 11	P Bradley (5) 11
17	605-00	INTREPID FORT (79) B Murray 8 7 10	C Cogan (5) 4

– 17 declared –

BETTING: 9-2 Bedazzle, 5-1 Okay Baby, 11-2 Chalky Dancer, 7-1 Special-K, Flagstaff, 10-1 Harry's Treat, 12-1 Grovefair Lad, 33-1 others

7.30 COVERDALE NOVICE MEDIAN AUCTION STAKES (CLASS E) £4,025 added 2YO 5f

1	D11	SHAWDON (8) Sir M Prescott 9 10	S Sanders 3
2	1	KATY THOMAS (48) (D) J Berry 8 13	P Fessey (3) 1
3		CHEROKEE CHARLIE R Craggs 8 12	J Lowe 8
4		VOGUE IMPERIAL P Haslam 8 12	L Charnock 2
5		D'MARTI C Booth 8 7	K Hodgson 6
6		DISPOL EMERALD S Kettlewell 8 7	A Culhane 7
7		MARIANA B Whitaker 8 7	Dean McKeown 4

– 7 declared –

BETTING: 4-11 Shawdon, 6-2 Katy Thomas, 20-1 Vogue Imperial, 25-1 Cherokee Charlie, Mariana, 33-1 others

8.00 PRICE WATERHOUSE HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,900 added 1m 2f

1	500-30	LAY THE BLAME (11) M Hammond 4 8 10	A Culhane 7
2	0-0011	OPALETTE (14) (D) Lady Herries 4 9 7	D Harrison 4
3	20-000	NO CLICHES (38) D Nicholls 4 9 6	Alex Greaves 8
4	5010-0	FOXES TAIL (82) Miss S Hall 3 9 2	G Parkin (5) 1
5	22-140	DON SEBASTIAN (82) (BF) W Haggas 3 9 1	S Sanders 2
6	1-0440	CEE-N-K (30) M Johnston 3 8 11	J Weaver 8
7	351403	GOLD DESIRE (7) (D) M Brittain 7 8 1	J Lowe 9
8	04000-	GHOSTLY APPARITION (J251) J Upson 4 8 0	L Charnock 3
9	-20036	SING AND DANCE (26) E Weymes 4 7 10	R Winston (7) 5

– 9 declared –

Minimum weight: 7st 10lb. True handicap weight: Sing And Dance 7st 7lb.
BETTING: 9-4 Opalette, 3-1 Don Sebastian, Cee-N-K, 9-2 Gold Desire, 8-1 Lay The Blame, 16-1 Foxes Tail, 25-1 Sing And Dance, 33-1 others

8.30 NORMAN WELLS MEMORIAL HANDICAP (CLASS C) £9,000 added 3YO 6f

1	3-0502	DOUBLE ACTION (4) T Easterby 9 7	L Charnock 2
2	013	SOVIET LEADER (22) (D) B Guest 9 7	P Bloomfield 7
3	511100	BRUTAL FANTASY (4) (D) J L Eyre 8 8	M Gallagher 5
4	0-516	BROAD RIVER (USA) (29) E Dunlop 9 3	D O'Donohoe (3) 9
5	60-025	THE LAMBTON WORM (19) (D) D Smith 9 1	A Culhane 10 B
6	34163-	GAELIC STORM (229) M Johnston 8 1	J Weaver 3
7	50-003	BAYFORD THRUST (14) J Berry 8 11	P Fessey (3) 1
8	5644-3	BARNBURGH BOY (9) T D Barron 8 10	D Harrison 8
9	000-10	DENTON LAD (33) (CD) J W Watts 8 4	N Connorton 4
10	-00030	EXPRESS GIRL (14) D Moffatt 7 10	Darren Moffatt (3) 9

– 10 declared –

BETTING: 9-4 Double Action, 5-1 Broad River, 6-1 Bayford Thrust, 13-2 The Lambton Worm, Barnburgh Boy, 8-1 Gaelic Storm, 10-1 others

9.00 MIDDLEHAM MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,900 added 3YO 1m

1	5-3	FAYIK (23) (BF) M Stoute 8 0	D Harrison 8
2		INGLEBOROUGH D Moffatt 8 0	Darren Moffatt (3) 13
3	22	NO GROUSING (41) P Haslam 9 0	L Charnock 9
4	6-3	TIPPERARY SUNSET (42) J J Quinn 8 0	Dale Gibson 3
5	4	VAIN TEMPEST (18) P Chapple-Hyam 8 0	R Havlin (3) 11
6	3-644	ZAAHIR (33) B Hills 9 0	J D Smith (3) 5
7	6	DINA LINE (USA) (32) M Bell 8 9	M Fenton 4
8		INDIAN AFFAIR W Haigh 8 9	A Culhane 10
9	0	MAGIC HILL (61) J Gosden 8 9	G Hind 7
10		MILL ORCHID J Berry 8 8	P Fessey (3) 1
11	0	PETAZ (14) M W Easterby 8 9	G Parkin (5) 6
12	0	RIVER TWEED (21) J Gosden 8 9	J Weaver 2

– 12 declared –

BETTING: 11-4 Vain Tempest, 4-1 Fayik, 5-1 No Grousing, 11-2 Zaahir, 15-2 Magic Hill, 9-1 River Tweed, 12-1 Dina Line, 16-1 others

9.30 LEYBURN MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,900 added 1m 4f 60yds

1	54	ARDARROCH PRINCE (19) Mrs M Reveley 6 9 10	A Culhane 17
2		GOLDEN GLORY M Brittain 4 9 10	G Parkin (5) 13
3	5	QUAINT DESIRE (7) M Brittain 4 9 10	D Mernagh (7) 2
4	5	SABU (20) J Charlton 5 9 10	Darren Moffatt (3) 9
5	52	AWESOME WELLS (18) H Cecil 3 8 10	J Lowe 1
6		DOUBLY SHARP (USA) M Johnston 3 8 10	J Fanning 18
7	06	HOH EXPLORER (45) D Barker 3 8 10	T Williams 7
8		JAZZ TRACK P Chapple-Hyam 3 8 10	R Havlin (3) 6
9	34	MACHIAVELLI (22) H Cecil 3 8 10	A McGlone 14
10	522	MIMARIS (USA) (37) A Stewart 3 8 10	M Roberts 11
11	0	NOTARY (21) J W Watts 3 8 10	N Connorton 4
12		PRINCE MOSHAR S Gollings 3 8 10	S Sanders 12
13		SEFTON BLAKE M Meagher 3 8 10	Dale Gibson 19
14	23	SURTSEY (61) M Johnston 3 8 10	J Weaver 10
15	00	TAM O'SHANTER (82) C Thornton 3 8 10	Dean McKeown 8
16	6	ALPINA (USA) (11) J Gosden 3 8 5	G Hind 15
17	03	KAYFIYAH (21) D Morley 3 8 5	M Fenton 3
18		SUMMER THYME J Berry 3 8 5	P Fessey (3) 16
19	2	VRENNAN (26) J Fanshawe 3 8 5	D Harrison 6

– 19 declared –

BETTING: 7-4 Machiavelli, 3-1 Mimaris, 5-1 Awesome Wells, 6-1 Alpina, 7-1 Surtsey, 12-1 Notary, 14-1 Vrennan, 16-1 *others*

HAMILTON

HYPERION

2.10 Jedi Knight 2.45 Leif The Lucky 3.20 Mighty Sure 3.55 Palacegate Jack 4.30 Garnock Valley 5.05 Lord Advocate

WOLVERHAMPTON

HYPERION

2.20 Calchas 2.55 Petoskin 3.30 Rasayel 4.05 Malibu Man 4.40 Sun In The Morning 5.15 Krabloonik

WORCESTER

HYPERION

6.40 Caddy's First 7.10 Fenian Court 7.40 Manor Mieo 8.10 Woodstock Wanderer 8.40 Santella Boy 9.10 Name Of Our Father

Royal Ascot – 3.45

Horse	C	H	L	T
Sleepytime	8-13	4-6	4-7	4-6
Classic Park	4-1	9-2	9-2	9-2
Khassah	7-1	5-1	11-2	7-1
Moonlight Paradise	8-1	15-2	9-1	7-1
Ocean Ridge	12-1	12-1	14-1	12-1
Rebecca Sharp	25-1	33-1	33-1	20-1

Each-way a quarter the odds, places 1, 2
C – Coral, H – William Hill, L – Ladbrokes, T – Tote

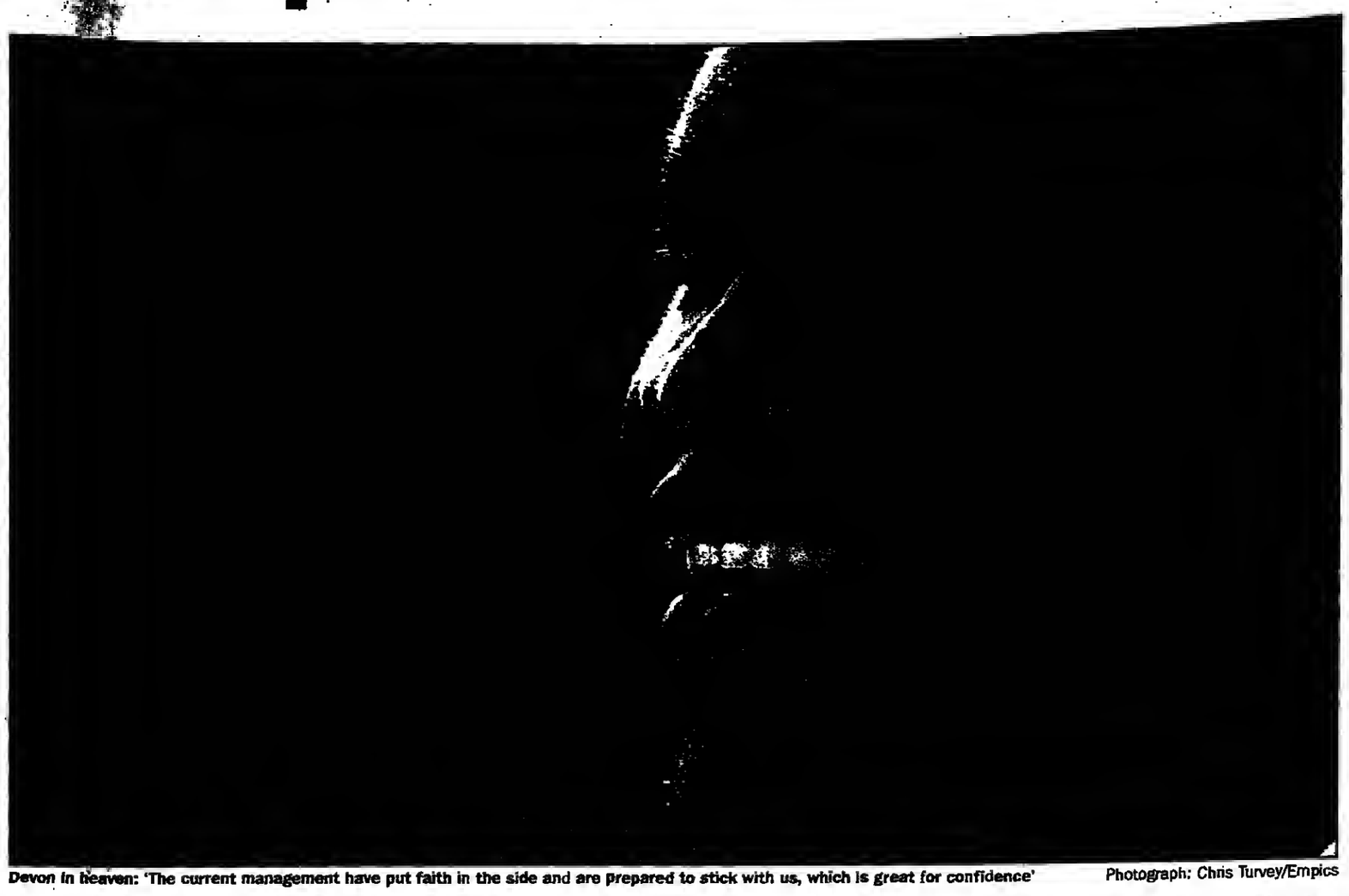
Royal Ascot – 4.20

Horse	C	H	L	T
Gold Spats	8-1	11-1	10-1	11-1
Hawksley Hill	10-1	11-1	10-1	11-1
Tregaron	10-1	11-1	11-1	12-1
Bold Words	10-1	11-1	10-1	11-1
Mawingo	12-1	11-1	12-1	11-1
Crown Court	12-1	11-1	12-1	12-1
Dancing Image	10-1	14-1	12-1	12-1
Yalta	14-1	14-1	14-1	12-1
Crumpton Hill	16-1	14-1	16-1	16-1
Dreams End	22-1	16-1	18-1	20-1
Sky Dome	33-1	25-1	22-1	25-1
Tertium	25-1	20-1	33-1	25-1
Gates	33-1	33-1	18-1	25-1
Red Robbo	33-1	20-1	20-1	33-1
Cadeaux Tryst	33-1	33-1	28-1	33-1
Ramooz	33-1	33-1	28-1	33-1
Hal's Pal	33-1	33-1	40-1	33-1
King Of Tunes	40-1	28-1	33-1	25-1
Lonely Leader	33-1	40-1	33-1	33-1
Kayvee	40-1	33-1	40-1	40-1
Pomona	40-1	40-1	40-1	40-1
Najm Mubeen	40-1	40-1	50-1	33-1
Saifan	50-1	28-1	33-1	33-1
Forza Figlio	50-1	40-1	40-1	40-1
Another Time	40-1	33-1	50-1	33-1
Kala Sunrise	50-1	50-1	40-1	33-1
Arterxerxes	50-1	66-1	50-1	50-1
Iamus	40-1	66-1	50-1	40-1
Celestial Key	50-1	50-1	66-1	50-1
Law Commission	50-1	66-1	66-1	40-1
Vanishing Day	66-1	66-1	66-1	66-1
General Academy	66-1	50-1	100-1	40-1

Each-way a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3, 4
C – Coral, H – William Hill, L – Ladbrokes, T – Tote

England bowler's return from the international wilderness is based on a new-found self-belief, he tells **Ian Stafford**

Malcolm's phoenix rises for the Ashes



Devon in heaven: 'The current management have put faith in the side and are prepared to stick with us, which is great for confidence' Photograph: Chris Turvey/Empics

It is the measure of Devon Malcolm's new-found confidence that when I telephoned him on Sunday night, as requested, to see if a Monday meeting was possible, he told me to come up to Birmingham the following morning. "We'll skittle out the three remaining Warwickshire batsmen, and then we can talk," he told me, with obvious relish in his voice.

And so Derbyshire did, thanks largely to one D Malcolm. Fresh from a useful contribution to England's magnificent victory over Australia in the first Test, Malcolm returned figures of 5 for 85 at Edgbaston in the county match to further his current stock as England's top bowler in the Championship, and set him up nicely for another crack at the Aussies tomorrow at Lord's.

"It's just good, believe me, to be able to go out there and concentrate fully on my cricket and the opposition," he admits, as we sit in a corporate box and survey goings on out in the middle.

This, for the much-maligned 34 year old, is something of a novelty, even if his Test career has spanned eight years, 35 Tests and 124 wickets. He started off his international career well enough, but after playing in 11 Tests against the West Indies, India and New Zealand, he has since been dropped more times than a football by a Scottish goalkeeper. Even his 9 for 7 against South Africa at The Oval three years ago failed to safeguard his long-term future.

"Do you know, I once went through a spell of playing six Tests all against different opposition," he says, with a rueful smile. "After my nine wickets I received loads of calls from friends of mine in cricket who all said: 'Now you'll be playing for England for at least the next two years, Dev. You can concentrate on your cricket.' But no, two Tests later, bang. I was gone again."

He shakes his head and stares out at the pitch. "There's been a lot of lost years," he adds. "I should be well over 200 wickets by now in Test matches, but how can you have any confidence in people who make those kind of decisions? When someone drops you after taking nine wickets you have to ask who is being inconsistent here, me or the management?"

You suggest that Malcolm has not always been the most consistent bowler in the past, and that while he is clearly capable of destroying a batting side, he has also been easy prey with some wayward bowling. He accepts this to a point, but then explains why this has been the case.

"I've always been made to feel under pressure as a bowler, because people haven't stuck with me. As soon as I'd been hit for a few runs I immediately felt that I needed to get a wicket or I would be dropped. More often or not, that would be the case. People felt I should be bowling sides out all the time, but that's not my job. My job is to get a few wickets, have the batters hopping around, hit a few fingers, and soften them up for the other bowlers."

He has done well to keep bouncing back into the team, of course. This he puts down to tremendous self-motivation. Yet he admits he was down and out after the well-chronicled misery of the 1995 South Africa tour, when he fell foul of Raymond Illingworth's highly dubious managerial style, was told he could not bowl, was blamed for the last Test, and therefore series, defeat, and returned home a man humiliated and racked with self-doubt.

Even now, 18 months on, and when the whole sorry saga and sniping seems to be finally over, he finds it difficult to address the subject. Up to this point, he has been chirpy during the conversation, but now he shifts uncomfortably in his seat, and spends a lot of time looking down at the floor. "It still hurts a lot," he says. "Even talking about it is very hard for me.

"It was very depressing to see people so calculating and malicious. It's not in my nature to upset anyone, at least off the field. But I was called all sorts of names and was written off."

He pauses again, before delivering a series of short statements, interrupted by yet more quiet moments. "It was a bad winter." Pause. "It was the lowest point of my career." Stare. "My self-esteem and confidence was totally, totally gone." Long sigh.

How low did he reach? "Well, I can tell you that the first game of last season was against Cambridge University," he answers, brightening up. "Normally you look forward to this game because you expect a few wickets. This time, facing those boys, I was petrified. I found it scarier than my first Test match."

Despite all this, his rehabilitation process had begun. "I didn't want to bow out of Test cricket in the way the previous management were trying to portray me," he explains. "I spent a long, long time purging myself of the whole episode. It was very, very difficult to turn it around, but I tried to use all the negativity to strengthen me, and I received a great deal of support from my family."

He ended last season as the leading English wicket-taker, but this was not enough to get him on the winter tour of Zimbabwe and New Zealand. "I never expected to go, either, because of the obstacles. Not with that management. But at least I had my confidence back, and it helped that I knew that, elsewhere, around the world, the top batsmen respected me. Speak to any of them, and they'll tell you so."

If last year was a process of recovery, this season is all about revelling in a new attitude to his cricket. "I've reached the stage now when I'm not really listening to anyone any more, but just backing myself. I've been trying to please everyone before, I listened to all the advice, but the problem was that the advice from everyone was different. I was confused and thinking to myself: 'Who the bloody hell can I please here?'"

A benefit this year has also helped his cause, not least because one of his patrons just happens to be Nelson Mandela, a man he first met during the ill-fated South Africa tour. Since then they have lunched together with John Major, who has since been dropped himself.

"I should have been playing an important NatWest match for Derbyshire, but they let me go to London. The President heard about this and said to me: 'I heard you guys have a big match today. If you lose, I'll take the blame.' He's sent me a number of letters of support as well, and I will be going to South Africa in October to run a series of coaching clinics in the townships."

First, however, he faces the small matter of an Ashes series, confident that he will be playing a major part in the outcome. "The current management have put faith in the side and are prepared to stick with us, which is great for confidence. I'm in great form, by far the fastest bowler in the country, and I'm expecting to take a nice haul of Aussie wickets.

"I really believe that we can win the Ashes now. I know they'll be coming back at us good and hard, but we'll be adopting the same intense approach at Lord's and intend to nail them good and proper."

Fighting talk, indeed, from a man who was down and out 18 months ago. And if his bowling fails to batter the opposition, then his attempts to sell his benefit wares surely will succeed. As we make our way out of the Edgbaston stand, he insists that I buy a few of his ties and brochures.

"Good quality silk ties," he says, sounding like a Portobello market stallholder. "Show them to your friends." Eventually I manage to escape from Devon's grip with a testing question about the current Derbyshire situation, in the wake of sudden and controversial resignation of the captain, Dean Jones.

"Hey," he says making his way back to his team-mates. "I wasn't even with the team. I was playing for England. All I can say is that I'm upset about the situation, and I'm really surprised, because I didn't think matters had got that bad."

Matters are no longer bad for Devon Malcolm. A big, broad smile has returned to his face, and he cannot wait to get at the Australians once more, happy, for once, that people have belief in him.

World Cup adopts youth policy

DEREK PRINGLE

The 1999 ICC Cricket World Cup, as it wishes to be known, was launched at Lord's yesterday under the catchphrase: "It's not just cricket." But as the ceremony unfurled with slick aplomb, it was clear that the England and Wales Cricket Board appeared keen not to fall foul of the complacency that has sometimes dogged other large events.

World Cups are a guaranteed financial bonanza, yet the ECB seems determined that this one will be populist and reach as many people as possible. As Terry Blake, the tournament director put it: "In 1999, the world will come to England to celebrate cricket."

As ever, television is the medium that will carry the message. But although the screening rights have yet to be finalised, probably the reason only two of the eight – Vodafone and NatWest – global sponsorships are signed and sealed, an estimated global audience in excess of two billion people is expected to watch some of the 42-match event. Terrestrial stations will be well represented and assured either live or highlights coverage of each game.

Closer to home it is the young who will be targeted, wooed by a combination of street parties, gaudy merchandise and a couple of cartoon characters – a ball and a batsman – whose names will be chosen through a children's competition and announced later. According to Blake, the message the ECB wants to give to the youth of Britain is: "Cricket is a vibrant game full of action and heroes."

As has been the norm for the last two World Cups, there will be white balls, coloured clothing and matches played over 50 overs. Unlike the previous two competitions, no matches will be held under lights, but there will be a wide range of venues, taking in all the first-class counties, but also including Ireland, Edinburgh and Amsterdam.

There are two round-robin groups of six teams, with two points awarded for each win. The top three from each go forward to the Super Six stage of the competition, carrying forward the points made during the qualifying round. This means every game is worth winning.

At that stage, a total of nine matches that will determine the top four teams, who will qualify for the semi-finals. Those matches will take place at Old Trafford and Edgbaston, where the top team of the Super Six phase will play the team placed fourth, and those placed second and third will fight it out for a place in the Lord's final on 20 June.

The duration of the competition, from its start on 14 May, when England play Sri Lanka at Lord's, to the showpiece final there, is 37 days. At that stage of an English summer the slow seaming pitches will offer a distinct home advantage to England, who will have returned from a winter tour of Australia.

England have never won the World Cup. Perhaps it is time to change that in front of a nation primed and ready for action.

1999 CRICKET WORLD CUP FIXTURES

Group A

England, India, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Kenya.

Group B

Australia, West Indies, Pakistan, Scotland, Zealand, Bangladesh.

Match schedule

GROUP STAGE: 14 May: England v Sri Lanka (Lord's). **15 May:** India v South Africa (Hove). Zimbabwe v Kenya (Taunton). **16 May:** Australia v Scotland (Worcester). West Indies v Pakistan (Bristol). **17 May:** New Zealand v Bangladesh (Chelmsford). **18 May:** England v Kenya (Canterbury). **19 May:** Sri Lanka v South Africa (Northampton); India v Zimbabwe (Leicester). **20 May:** Australia v New Zealand (Cardiff). Pakistan v Scotland (Chester-le-Street). **21 May:** West Indies v Bangladesh (Irish venue TBA). **22 May:** England v South Africa (The Oval). Zimbabwe v Sri Lanka (Worcester). **23 May:** Kenya v India (Bristol). Australia v Pakistan (Headingley). **24 May:** West Indies v New Zealand (Southampton). Scotland v Bangladesh (Edinburgh). **25 May:** England v Zimbabwe (Trent Bridge). **26 May:** Sri Lanka v India (Taunton); South Africa v Kenya (Arrowsmith, Hull). **27 May:** West Indies v Scotland (Leicester). Australia v Bangladesh (Chester-le-Street). **28 May:** New Zealand v Pakistan (Derby). **29 May:** England v India (Edgbaston). Zimbabwe v South Africa (Chelmsford). **30 May:** Sri Lanka v Kenya (Southampton). West Indies v Australia (Old Trafford). **31 May:** Scotland v New Zealand (Edinburgh). Pakistan v Bangladesh (Northampton).

SUPER SIX STAGE: 4 June: Group A 2nd v Group B 2nd (The Oval). **5 June:** Group A 1st v Group B 1st (Trent Bridge). **6 June:** Group A 3rd v Group B 3rd (Headingley). **8 June:** Group A 2nd v Group B 1st (Old Trafford). **9 June:** Group A 3rd v Group B 2nd (Lord's). **10 June:** Group A 1st v Group B 3rd (Edgbaston). **11 June:** Group A 3rd v Group B 1st (The Oval). **12 June:** Group A 2nd v Group B 3rd (Trent Bridge). **13 June:** Group A 1st v Group B 2nd (Headingley).

SEMI-FINALS: 16 June: Super Six 1 v Super Six 4 (Old Trafford). **17 June:** Super Six 2 v Super Six 3 (Edgbaston).

FINAL: 20 June: (Lord's).

One of the two mascots for the 1999 World Cup. A competition is being held to name them

ICC's Mickey Mouse idea

The International Cricket Council has a new image, a snazzy new logo and an ambitious new president, Jagmohan Dalmiya, writes **Derek Pringle**. It is also about to take cricket to Disneyworld in an attempt to escape its narrow appeal. Persuade Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck to open the batting they reason, and the world will surely follow suit.

The ambitious plan is the brainwave of the new development committee, chaired by Dr Ali Bacher, which was also instrumental in securing a programme of A team tours to associate members like Kenya, Bangladesh and the Netherlands, by the likes of England, Pakistan, Australia, India and South Africa.

Apparently, negotiations with Disneyworld in Florida are well underway and interest has been encouraging and a triangular one-day tournament, involving the nine Test playing nations on a rolling three-year cycle, could begin as soon as 1998.

If it is, it could clash with the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur, which is accepting cricket as a team sport for the very first time. But although the latter has been suggested before and is therefore not as novel as the Disneyworld link, it should be remembered that the oldest international cricket match was actually between Canada and the United States in 1844, and not England versus Australia.

In the past, any decision made by ICC which required a vote was subject to intense bout of politicking, especially by those who felt the game was run from Lord's for the interests of England and her closest allies.

That squabbling has now ended and according to Dalmiya, who is president until June 2000, "a new era of collective responsibility" has begun. "We will now have experts making decisions not just recommendations," he said at yesterday's conclusion of this summer's meeting.

One such group of experts is the cricket committee, chaired by the outgoing president, Clyde Walcott. With ICC agreeing in principle to a World Test Championship, the committee's next task will be to consider how best to achieve this. They will announce their findings in the December meeting, as well as pronouncing on the viability of a World Cup every two years.

With one-day cricket now being viewed alongside Test cricket, the granting of "first-class and one-day status" to Bangladesh and Kenya, is meant to encourage others such as Scotland, Ireland and the Netherlands.

In terms of days played, Test cricket still outnumbers one-dayers two to one. It is the way it should be and Bangladesh, ambitious as recent winners of the ICC trophy should be, will have their request for Test status reviewed next year.

Joiner's happy return

Rugby Union

STUART FORTH reports from Harare

Zimbabwe	10
Scotland	55

A year to the day after losing his international place on tour, Craig Joiner bounced back with three of Scotland's nine tries in an easy victory over Zimbabwe yesterday.

Scott Nichol, the top try-scorer north of the border last season, also recorded a hat-trick while Hugh Gilmore crossed twice out on the wing. A touchdown from Eric Peters added to the rout, but the fact that this was the only forwards' try was a mystery considering the dominance Scotland enjoyed up front. The open-side flanker, Simon Holmes, was first to every breakdown and the locks, Stuart Grimes and Scott Murray, imposed themselves at will on opposition whose biggest player stood a mere 6ft 3in.

Zimbabwe, who had beaten Namibia 32-26 but lost 13-42 to Tonga in the build-up, were never completely subdued and had a visionary scrum-half in Isaac Mbereko, who was rewarded with a try after intercepting a pass by Derrick Lee intended for Gilmore as he tried to run out of defence.

Scotland, who used their substitutes extensively, partly in view of Friday's tough follow-up with Gauteng Lions (formerly Transvaal) in Johannesburg, could not have wished for a better start. They will be hoping that their first-choice outside-half, Craig Chalmers, the most experienced player in the party, will recover from a hamstring injury in time for the Gauteng game.

Zimbabwe: Try Mbereko. Conversion Tsimba. Penalty Tsimba. **Scotland:** Tries Joiner 3, Nichol 3, Gilmore 2, Peters. Conversions Hodge 5.

ZIMBABWE: D Trevella; C Graham, T Manyimo, J Ewing, A Jann; K Tsimba, I Imbreko; R Moore, A Knight, P Staak, B Catterall, T Tabuma, D Kirkman (capt), B Dawson, J Durand.

SCOTLAND: D Lee (London Scottish); C Joiner (Leicester), S Nichol (Melrose), R Eriksson (London Scottish), H Gilmore (Heriot's FP); D Hodge (Watsonians) A Nichol (capt, Bath); G Graham (Newcastle), G Bulloch (West) B Stewart (Edinburgh Accies), S Murray (Bedford), S Campbell (Melrose), E Peters (Bath), C Hogg (Melrose), S Holmes (London Scottish). Replacements: S Grimes (Watsonians) for Campbell, 40; G Burns (Watsonians) for A Nichol, 46; S Longstaff (Dundee High) for Eriksson, 55; R Shepherd (Melrose) for Lee, 60;

Referee: M Wyles (Zimbabwe).

Rawlinson's gladiatorial instinct

Mike Rowbottom meets a little-known athlete making his European Cup debut this weekend

Chris Rawlinson: The hunted becomes the hunter in Munich Photograph: Peter Byrne/Guzelian

Chris Rawlinson faces the challenge of his life this weekend when he makes his European Cup debut. Ten barriers and a world-class 400 metres hurdles field await him. But at least he will not encounter Rhino trying to knock him over with a giant cotton bud.

The 25-year-old from Rotherham, who secured his trip to Munich at late notice by smashing a 10-year-old British League record, knows what it is like to test himself against apparently overwhelming odds.

Two years ago he was among the 16 final contenders in *The Gladiators* TV series, reaching the second round. In so doing, he became acquainted with the physical commitment of Messrs Wolf, Raider, Hunter and the mighty Rhino.

"They were very competitive," he said. "They took it as a personal insult when they lost. If one did badly, the others tried even harder to stop you."

A team ethic of a different kind will prevail for Rawlinson this weekend as he has his first experience of the competition in which every point, even the one awarded for eighth and last, counts towards a national total.

Not that Rawlinson, whose only previous race of similar high profile was in the GB v USA match at Gateshead two years ago, is planning on coming last. There are likely to be at least three men faster than him, including France's European record holder, Stephane Diagana, but the Belgrave Harrier is hoping to make fourth place, with an additional target of running faster than 49.50sec, which would put him into the British all-time top 10.

Rawlinson, who only finished sitting exams for his sports science degree at Loughborough University last week, is well aware that he is operating in an event where there is a great British tradition. David Hemery, Alan Pascoe, Kriss Akabusi and Jon Ridgeon have all achieved major medals in the 400m hurdles, and Rawlinson has studied them all, either on tape or in real life.

"Hemery was a very graceful hurdler," he said. "Kriss had to work harder. But he was a bit of a role model because he made everything seem so enjoyable. Jon is one of the most talented athletes around, but he has been so unlucky with injury over the years."

Ridgeon's latest injury, and the apparent retirement of Peter Crampton, made the European Cup 400m hurdles selection an apparently simpler matter this year, but the two men thought to be the main contenders – Gary Cadogan and Gary Jennings – were both well beaten by Rawlinson at a windswept British League meeting on 7 June.

Running into the wind, the former decathlete took the lead over the ninth hurdle and pulled away to win in 49.92sec, a personal best by 0.44sec, a League record by 0.07, and – best of all – inside the World Championship qualifying mark. With one run, Rawlinson had transformed his season, perhaps his career.

"It's surprising what four-tenths of a second can do," he said with a chuckle. "Before the race I had been concentrating on my revision and I had given up hope of making the European Cup team. I couldn't seem to get into races competitive enough to push me to the time I needed."

Ironically, had Cadogan not turned up to the League match, Rawlinson might not have raised his level of performance. "If it wasn't for Gary, I wouldn't have done it," Rawlinson said. "He was pretty peeved afterwards. But that's what this sport is about. I was over the moon when the time was announced. The whole thing was brilliant, apart from the fact that I was sick for half an hour afterwards."

There followed a nervous 48 hours before his place in the team was confirmed through Teletext. "I was checking it every few minutes," he said.

Two years ago his wife Sue, a PE teacher, learned of her inclusion in the British team for the world indoor and outdoor championships by the same means. Now it was his turn.

Rawlinson worked for six years as a lifeguard at Ponds Forge pool in Sheffield. "I never saved anyone's life," he said. "In reality I was a child-minder."

As he prepares to take the plunge in earnest, he is enjoying the attention his call-up has generated. In the last week he has had a band-out from a sports goods manufacturer and an invitation to join the list of athletes claiming National Lottery funding as well as front cover billing in *Athletics Weekly*.

"It's great to be in the same team as people like Linford Christie, Sally Gunnell and Roger Black," he said. "I'm still a bit of a nobody, but I've been given the chance to prove myself. And I'm up for it."

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Williams grows on grass but skips green party

Tennis

DERRICK WHYTE
reports from Eastbourne

Four days into her new career as a grass-court exponent, Venus Williams is busily accumulating a series of firsts. At the Direct Line Championships here yesterday, she accounted for Chanda Rubin to claim her inaugural victory in a main draw on the alien green surface.

Ordinarily, it would have been just cause for a healthy teenager to let down her hair and paint the town red by way of celebrating her 17th birthday. Unlike other prodigies who have attempted to make their spectacular way in the game with scarcely an acknowledgement of the world outside the courts, Williams, thankfully, *is* a healthy teenager with other interests and alternative pursuits. But parties are out. She revealed herself yesterday to be a Jehovah's Witness, for whom there is no such occasion as a birthday party.

"It's my religion and that's all I know," said the youngster who offered the Centre Court gathering evidence of the power and athleticism that are a major starting point in her attempt to rival Martina Hingis as the next superior being in the women's game.

Williams won 6-4, 6-4 against a fellow American ranked 53 places above her at No 26. "Surely you celebrate your victories," someone pressed.

"Not really, I've got to play again tomorrow," was the reply from the youngster who is making her first visit to England.

At 6ft 2in and dressed in silver-grey with beaded dreadlocks, Miss Williams certainly cuts a striking figure. She grunts rather loudly – too loudly for Disgusted of Eastbourne who remarked that she was worse than that other noise-bag, Monica Seles – and her every thumping shot provokes a rustling of the beads akin to a man fingering the loose change in his pocket.

Rubin threatened first, but Williams, who played her first match on grass as far back as last weekend, quickly asserted her authority, absorbing a second break of her service before reeling off three successive games to take the first set.

Two service breaks were enough in the second as Rubin's game fell away badly. Next up for the birthday girl from Los Angeles is a second-round meeting with Nathalie Tauziat, who put out the fifth seeded Mary Joe Fernandez.

"I am learning to come to the net more," Williams added. "I never serve and volley as much as I do on grass so this is really going to help my game a lot."

Seles, the No 1 seed, plays her first match today, but there are no second-round exertions for the trio of British entrants who all departed from the tournament yesterday.

Lucie Ahl and Jo Ward respectively lost in straight sets to the highly ranked French girl, Anne-Gaelle Sidot, and Japan's Naoko Sawamatsu, who now has to face Seles.

But Shirli-Ann Siddall staged a fighting recovery to peg back another Japanese opponent, Ai Sugiyama, before going down 8-6 in the final set.

Hair-raising: Williams makes an impact at Eastbourne yesterday Photograph: Allsport

Lee feels strain of success

GUY HODGSON
reports from Nottingham

The great British sporting revival has its limits and some were discovered at the Nottingham Open yesterday. The national cricket and football teams might be basking in an afterglow of achievement but to expect our tennis players below Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski to also rise above themselves was asking too much.

Chris Wilkinson and Martin Lee tried but failed, going down in straight sets in the first round, but at least they were overcome by players who are ranked leagues ahead of them. Not so long ago you feared for any British player whenever they went on court.

Lee, 19, could even draw encouragement from a 38-minute 6-1, 6-1 rout by Slovakia's Karol Kucera. "Disappointed? Not at all," he said. "I had to beat Jerome Golmard, who is 98 in the world at the moment, to qualify to play here so I'm feeling pretty content."

Lee admitted to feeling tired from his exploits last week at Queen's, where he reached the third round before being swatted by Goran Ivanisevic. He won only 22 points in total and his serve came in for particularly rough treatment from Kucera, who is ranked 64th in the world.

Lee took his first service game to 30 but had to wait for another 10 games for another success, by which time the match was all but over. The end came quickly, Kucera breaking him for a fifth time to 15.

The remedy, according to Lee, was more effort to build his body strength. "I took two weeks in the gym before Queen's," he said, "and I really felt the benefit. I need to work on my strength. Sometimes it's hard for me to stay with the power on court. The flashy shots can come when I need them.

"I don't set myself goals because I could end up disappointed if I don't achieve them. I'm just looking to improve week by week." Having gone up 118 places in seven days to 382 in the world, he was justifiably satisfied.

Which is not how you would describe Wilkinson, who surrendered 7-6, 6-4, to Germany's Marc-Kevin Goellner. "His service game seemed to last 10 seconds," the British No 3 said, "while mine seemed to last 10 minutes." A reason for that was Goellner's accuracy, which brought three aces in the opening game and 20 in total.

Daniel Nestor also had reason to feel like the coconut in the shy as South Africa's Grant Stafford whistled nine first serves past his racket although his 6-1, 7-6 defeat might seem peaceful compared with what he will face next week.

Nestor found he had been drawn against the British No 1, Henman, in Wimbledon's first round and, having had to face Greg Rusedski on Court One last year, has every reason to feel aggrieved with his lot. "It's tough because he's going to have a lot of support," he said.

"The Wimbledon crowd are fair. At least they won't be heckling me or screaming between first and second serves like they do in Davis Cup matches in South America." Oh no?

Davidson stung by long ban

Rugby League

The Oldham second rower Paul Davidson has appealed against a three-match ban for biting an opponent in last Saturday's Visa World Club Championship match in Townsville.

The Australasian Super League judiciary, meeting in Sydney yesterday, handed out the suspension after finding him guilty of the charge. But Davidson immediately appealed, as the suspension rules him out of Oldham's final match in Australia, against the Adelaide Rams, and the next two Super League matches.

Davidson was charged with "contrary conduct" following an on-field skirmish with the Cowboys' stand-off, Ian Dunemann, midway through the first half at Stockland Stadium. Dunemann complained to the referee, showing alleged bite marks on his upper left arm, and Davidson was placed on report.

The Leeds loose-forward Terry Newton was also suspended yesterday – for one match – after pleading guilty to a "dangerous throw" on Adelaide Rams' David Boughton in Friday night's match, for which he was sent off.

The Auckland Warriors, meanwhile, are considering launching an appeal after the hooker Syd Eru was banned for his dismissal in the match at Bradford on Saturday. The New Zealand Test No 9 was sent off for a high tackle on Bradford's Andy Hodgson just before half-time in the Warriors' 20-16 victory.

The League disciplinary committee handed out a one-match suspension, which will rule him out of his club's final match of the first round – next Monday's fixture at Warrington.

RACING RESULTS

ROYAL ASCOT

2.30: 1. ALLIED FORCES (L Dettori) 10-1; 2. Centre Stalls 11-1; 3. All-Royal 9-4 fav. 11 ran. nk, 1¼. (Saeed bin Suroor). Tote: £7.90; £2.10, £3.20, £1.60. Dual Forecast: £67.00. CSF: £92.02. Trio: £50.70.

3.05: 1. BOSRA SHAM (K Fallon) 4-11 fav; 2. Alhaarth 10-1; 3. London News 10-1. 8 ran. 8, 5. (H Cecil). Tote: £1.50; £1.10, £2.00. DF: £3.10. CSF: £4.31. NR: Helcon.

3.45: 1. STARBOROUGH (L Dettori) 11-2; 2. Air Express 20-1; 3. Daylami 7-2. 8 ran. 2-1 fav Desert King (4th). 1, 4. (D Loder). Tote: £4.90; £1.10, £3.10, £1.60. DF: £33.30. CSF: £88.92.

4.20: 1. HARBOUR MASTER (C Roche) 16-1; 2. Desert Prince 3-1 fav; 3. Bold Fact 7-1. 15 ran. 1½, ½. (A O'Brien). Tote: £26.90; £6.10, £2.20, £2.70. DF: £74.20. CSF: £59.64. Trio: £162.50.

4.55: 1. FLY TO THE STARS (O Peslier) 20-1; 2. Kosal 12-1; 3. Rapier 50-1; 4. Tigrello 50-1. 28 ran. 7-1 jt-favs Kennemara Star & Generous Libra. 1½, sht-hd. (M Johnston). Tote: £28.50; £6.00, £3.10, £27.10, £23.30. DF: £228.30. CSF: £193.77. Tricast: £10,356.60. Trio: not won (£9,210.00 to Ascot 4.20 today).

5.30: 1. SEA FREEDOM (S Drowne) 20-1; 2. Shirley Sue 20-1; 3. Arcady 25-1; 4. Tamarpour 25-1. 25 ran. 9-2 fav Inchcailloch. ½, sht-hd. (G Balding). Tote: £27.40; £5.50, £4.40, £12.90, £7.40. DF: £222.70. CSF: £337.83. Tricast: £8,816.72. Trio: £7,801.60 (£9,889.38 to Ascot 4.20 today).

Jackpot: not won (£46,284.88 to today). Placepot: £1,124.20. Quadpot: £532.90. Place 6: £1,081.46. Place 5: £551.82.

THIRSK

2.15: 1. TESSAJOE (L Charnock) 6-1; 2. Canton Venture 12-1; 3. Daira 8-1. 12 ran. 4-1 fav Sandbaggedagain. 1, sht-hd. (M Camacho). Tote: £6.70; £2.50, £3.20, £1.80. DF: £36.60. CSF: £71.10. Tricast: £537.31. Trio: £185.30.

2.50: 1. TANCRED TIMES (T Williams) 33-1; 2. Inchalong 5-1; 3. Tremonnow 5-1. 17 ran. 3-1 fav Final Claim. 1, 1. (D Barker). Tote: £58.90; £8.40, £3.00, £2.30. DF: £305.10. CSF: £179.11. Trio: £329.60. NR: Wynbury Flyer.

3.25: 1. PRIORY GARDENS (Miss A Deniel) 6-1; 2. Two On The Bridge 7-1; 3. Mungo Park 6-5 fav. 12 ran. 3, 1½. (J Bradley). Tote: £7.80; £2.00, £2.10, £1.30. DF: £17.20. CSF: £44.21. Tricast: £77.84. Trio: £12.50.

4.00: 1. CARRY THE FLAG (A Culhane) 4-9 fav; 2. Bobbydazzle 25-1; 3. Petara 25-1. 11 ran. 2½, 1½. (P Cole). Tote: £1.50; £1.10, £5.90, £3.70. DF: £21.60. CSF: £20.98. Trio: £235.00.

4.35: 1. CASTEL ROSSELO (R Price) 7-2 fav; 2. Mr Cube 14-1; 3. Terdad 12-1; 4. High Spirits 6-1. 16 ran. 1¼, hd. (J Campbell). Tote: £5.10; £1.20, £3.60, £3.20, £2.30. DF: £43.60. CSF: £52.50. Tricast: £392.15. Trio: £321.80.

5.10: 1. KARAWAN (J Carroll) 9-4; 2. Zabriskie 5-1; 3. Wishing Stone 6-5 fav. 11 ran. 2½, 1¼. (J Gosden). Tote: £3.30; £1.10, £2.10, £1.10. DF: £6.40. CSF: £12.63. Trio: £2.20. NR: Glenstone Boy.

5.40: 1. CASHMERE LADY (O Pears) 11-4; 2. Right Tune 6-1; 3. Naughty Pistol 16-1. 8 ran. 6-4 fav Dispol Gem (4th). 3½, 4. (J L Eyre). Tote: £4.30; £1.20, £1.80, £3.10. DF: £12.60. CSF: £19.43. Tricast: £212.17.

6.10: 1. MOUNTAIN SONG (G Duffield) 4-5 fav; 2. Rioja 14-1; 3. Simply Gifted 12-1. 11 ran. 6, 3. (Sir Mark Prescott). Tote: £1.60; £1.20, £2.50, £2.70. DF: £23.70. CSF: £11.80. Trio: £329.90.

Placepot: £48.80. Quadpot: £3.10. Place 6: £53.17. Place 5: £10.67.

SPORTING DIGEST

Baseball

INTER-LEAGUE GAMES: Chicago Cubs (NL) 8 Chicago White Sox (AL) 3; New York Mets (NL) 6 New York Yankees (AL) 0; Boston (AL) 5 Philadelphia (NL) 4 (10 innings); Florida (NL) 7 Detroit (AL) 3; Atlanta (NL) 3 Toronto (AL) 0; Kansas City (AL) 5 Houston (NL) 2; Milwaukee (AL) 1 St Louis (NL) 0; Pittsburgh (NL) 8 Minnesota (AL) 6; Montreal (NL) 6 Baltimore (AL) 4; Cincinnati (NL) 4 Cleveland (AL) 1.

TODAY'S NUMBER

188

The number of teams – six more than last season – who will contest the three European football trophies in 1997-98. There will be 24 teams in the Champions League and 102 in the Uefa Cup. The draw for the qualifying rounds is on 9 July.

Cricket

Final day of three

Oxford Univ v Notts

THE PARKS: Match drawn

Oxford University won toss

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE – First innings 324 for 4 dec (P R Pollard 115, A A Metcalfe 78, G F Archer 50 no).

OXFORD UNIVERSITY – First innings 124 (J E Hindson 4-28).

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE – Second Innings

(Overnight: 129 for 1)

R T Robinson not out	51
N A Gie c Byrne b Averis	50
G F Archer c Wagh b Patel	1
R T Bates c Scrini b Averis	4
J E Hindson not out	6
Extras (b4, lb3, w26, nb8)	41
Total (for 4 dec, 46 overs)	186

Fall: 2-139, 3-140, 4-147.

Did not bat: P R Pollard, A A Metcalfe, †L N P Walker, P J Franks, *R A Pick.

Bowling: Averis 15-2-44-2; Patel 17-3-68-2; Batterbee 5-0-15-0; Byrne 5-1-20-0; Wagh 4-1-12-0.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY – Second Innings

N G Pirihi lbw b Franks	0
A W Byrne lbw b Hindson	38
*M A Wagh lbw b Hindson	34
C G R Lightfoot b Hindson	17
P G Morgan lbw b Bates	0
J A G Fulton c Gie b Hindson	51
R O Hudson not out	45
C Patel not out	51
Extras (b7, lb3, nb2)	12
Total (for 6, 88 overs)	248

Fall: 1-0, 2-52, 3-92, 4-93, 5-93, 6-181.

Did Not Bat: J M M Averis, †A P Scrini, C M Batterbee.

Bowling: Franks 11-2-23-1; Pick 8-2-29-0; Archer 3-0-15-0; Bates 32-6-74-1; Hindson 34-8-97-4.

Umpires: K E Palmer and P Willey.

Football

COCA-COLA CUP First-round draw: Macclesfield v Hull City; Rochdale v Stoke; Chester v Carlisle; Lincoln City v Burnley; Port Vale v York; Wigan v Chesterfield; Oldham v Grimsby; Tranmere v Hartlepool; Wrexham v Sheffield Utd; Crewe v Bury; Doncaster v Nottingham Forest; Scarborough v Scunthorpe; Rotherham v Preston; Darlington v Notts County; Blackpool v Manchester City; Huddersfield v Bradford City; Mansfield v Stockport; Oxford Utd v Plymouth; Charlton v Ipswich; Norwich v Barnet; Reading v Swansea; Brentford v Shrewsbury; Walsall v Exeter; Wycombe v Fulham; Cardiff v Southend; Colchester v Luton; Gillingham v Birmingham; Northampton v Millwall; Peterborough v Portsmouth; Cambridge Utd v West Bromwich; Bristol City v Bristol Rovers; Swindon v Watford; Bournemouth v Torquay; Brighton v Leyton Orient; Queen's Park Rangers v Wolves. (Ties to be played weeks commencing 11 and 25 August).

WORLD CUP Oceania Zone Group One (Sydney): Australia 6 (Slater 16, Arnold 17, Kasaras og 39, Tapai 48, 52, A Vidmar pen 75) Solomon Islands 2 (Pai 29, Sun 66).

COPA AMERICA Group C (Santa Cruz, Bolivia): Colombia 4 (Morantes 13, 23, Cabrera pen 82, Aristizabal 77) Costa Rica 1 (Wright 87); Brazil 3 (Aldair 48, Romario 62, Leonardo 80) Mexico 2 (Luis Hernandez 14, 30).

WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP (Malaysia) Group A (Shah Alam): Uruguay 3 Belgium 0. Group B (Kuching): South Africa 0 South Korea 0; Brazil 3 France 0. Group C (Alor Setar): Ghana 2 (Gambo 28, Mouktar 67) Republic of Ireland 1 (Molloy 52); United States 1 China 0.

MONDAY'S LATE RESULT: Spanish League: Athletic Bilbao 1 (Guerrero 68) Deportivo La Coruña 0 (*Bilbao qualify for Uefa Cup*).

Golf

US RYDER CUP TEAM STANDINGS: 1 T Lehman 1016.280pts; 2 T Woods 1015.000; 3 M O'Meara 801.250; 4 B Faxon 727.500; 5 S Hoch 711.947; 6 T Tolles 689.280; 7 P Mickelson 659.280; 8 D Love 638.000; 9 S Jones 579.280; 10 J Furyk 572.500.

Motor racing

The strike-plagued Australian Formula One Grand Prix, held in March, made an operating loss of £1.2m. The loss, announced yesterday, followed a deficit of more than £1m last year when the race first moved from Adelaide. Australian Grand Prix Corporation officials blamed the loss on a public transport strike on race weekend and a reduction in general admission sales.

Rugby Union

France include five players from Super League rugby league clubs in their 22-man squad for the international against Scotland at Partick's Firhill ground in Glasgow on 9 July. Wigan forward Gael Tallec and Sheffield Eagles winger Jean-Marc Garcia join Paris St-Germain trio Pierre Chamorin, Fabien Devecchi and Australian-born Jason Sands.

FRANCE Squad (v Scotland, 9 July): Aloso (Limoux), Banet (Limoux), Banquet (Villeneuve/Wakefield), Bourrel (Limoux), Cabestany (XIII Catalan), Cambres (XIII Catalan), Chamorin (St Estève/PSG), Couttet (Carpentras), Devecchi (Villeneuve/PSG), Dulac (St Gaudens), Elkhalouki (Toulouse), Garcia (St Estève/Sheffield), Guisset (St Estève), Pech (Pia), Pastre Courtine (Villeneuve), Peralta (Villeneuve), Sands (PSG), Tallec (Wigan), Teixido (Limoux), Tena (XIII Catalan), Verges (St Estève), Eric Vergniol (Tonneins).

TOUR MATCHES (Brisbane, Aus): Queensland 24 France 34. (Harare): Zimbabwe 10. Scotland 55.

Squash

AL AHRAM INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP (Cairo): Men's semi-finals: P Nicol (Sco) bt A Barada (Egypt) 14-15 15-11 15-12 15-13; Jansher Khan (Pak) bt A Gough (Wal) 15-11 15-12 15-5. Women's semi-finals: S Fitz-Gerald (Aus) bt C Owens (Aus) 9-4 9-0 9-4; M Martin (Aus) bt S Schone (Ger) 9-3 9-4 9-3.

Tennis

WIMBLEDON QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT (Roehampton): Men's singles first round: S Simian (Fr) bt A Belobrajdic (Aus) 6-2 6-2; A Rachel (US) bt R Schuttler (Ger) 6-3 6-4; E Ran (Isr) bt L Tieleman (It) 6-2 6-4; R Delgado (Par) bt J-F Bachelot (Fr) 6-7 6-2 6-2; M Maclagan (GB) bt D Lobb (GB) 6-4 6-3; A Clement (Fr) bt C Buscaglione (Fr) 6-3 6-4; F Fonseng (Fr) bt A Rybalko (Ukr) 6-2 4-6 6-3; G Canas (Arg) bt C Beecher (GB) 6-0 6-3; P Tramacchi (Aus) bt C Bennett (GB) 7-5 6-3; A Hunt (NZ) bt A Lopez-Moron (Sp) 4-6 6-4 6-1; D Nainkin (SA) bt F Bergh (Swe) 6-4 1-6 6-1; W McGuire (US) bt D Nargiso (It) 5-1 ret; I Moldovan (Rom) bt D Ward (GB) 6-3 6-2; N Thomann (Fr) bt M Rodriguez (Arg) 6-4 6-3; M Joyce (US) bt S Hirszon (Croa) 6-1 6-2; M Bhupathi (Ind) bt D Salvador (Sp) 6-0 6-2; P Luxa (Cz Rep) bt C Wall (GB) 6-2 6-1; M Mimyi (Bul) bt F Dondo (Urug) 7-6 4-6 6-0; M Draper (Aus) bt C Mamit (US) 6-3 6-4; J van Lottum (Neth) bt M Bok (Neth) 6-0 6-4; G Doyle (Aus) bt D Furmanski (Arg) 6-0 6-0; D Norman (Bel) bt G Lopez (Sp) 6-3 6-4; S Grosjean (Fr) bt L Barthez (Fr) 6-4 3-6 15-13; O Delaitre (Fr) bt L Rehmann (Ger) 6-3 6-7 6-3; H Davids (Neth) bt T Spinks (GB) 7-6 6-3; M Navarra (It) bt M Stadling (Swe) 6-4 4-6 6-3; E Erlich (Isr) bt F Fogues (Sp) 6-0 6-2; G Etlis (Arg) bt G Fauser (Ger) 7-5 7-5; S Duran (Sp) bt J-M Gambill (US) 6-4 7-6; D Rikl (Cz Rep) bt N Behr (Isr) 7-5 6-3; S Bryan (US) bt P Maggs (GB) 3-6 6-3 8-6; G Galimberti (It) bt F Browne (Arg) 6-4 3-6 6-4; I Heuberger (Swit) bt S Downs (NZ) 4-6 6-4 6-1; A Olhovskiy (Rus) bt A Zingman (Arg) 6-0 6-4; B Shelton (US) bt K Braasch (Ger) 6-3 3-6 6-3; T Larkham (Aus) bt S Pescosolido (It) 6-1 6-4; N Pereira (Ven) bt G Gaudio (Arg) 6-3 6-1; J Grabb (US) bt T Rascon (Spa) 7-6 7-6; P Bauer (Ger) bt M Joachim (Ger) 6-2 6-3; R Weidenfeld (Isr) bt A Thoms (Ger) 6-3 6-4; J Winnink (Neth) bt W Black (Zim) 6-4 7-5; N Escude (Fr) bt I Sekulov (Aus) 6-4 6-1; M Tebbutt (Aus) bt G-P Fleurian (Fr) 2-6 7-6 6-4; B MacPhie (US) bt S Matsuoka (Japan) 6-7 6-4 6-4.

Women's singles first round: L Golarsa (It) bt M Mazzotta (Ven) 7-5 7-6; L Latimer (GB) bt K Pace (US) 6-0 7-5; N Vaidyanathan (Ind) bt K Warne-Holland (GB) 3-6 6-1 6-4; S Pitschke (Aut) bt M Shaughnessy (US) 6-2 3-6 6-3; H Inoue (Japan) bt L Porun (US) 3-6 6-3 6-1; K Triska (Swe) bt L Horn (RSA) 7-5 7-5; S Talaja (Croa) bt M Gaidano (Arg) 7-5 3-6 6-3; N Miyagi (Japan) bt E Jelfs (GB) 6-1 6-2; M Drake (Can) bt T Krizan (Sloven) 7-6 6-2; N Feber (Bel) bt M de Swardt (SA) 6-0 7-5; K Cross (GB) bt F Zuluaga (Col) 6-2 7-5; A Gavaldon (Mex) bt O Lugina (Ukr) 1-0 ret; A Mauresmo (Fr) bt A Tordoff (GB) 6-2 6-3; T Snyder (US) bt S Park (Kor) 5-7 6-4 7-5; N Pratt (Aus) bt B Fulco-Villella (Arg) 6-2 6-3; V Csurgo (Hun) bt A Wainwright (GB) 6-4 7-6; M Vento (Ven) bt S Jeyaseelan (Can) 3-6 6-3 6-4; S Noorlander (Neth) bt S Drake-Brockman (Aus) 6-2 7-5.

NOTTINGHAM MEN'S OPEN First round: M Goellner (Ger) bt C Wilkinson (GB) 7-6 6-4; S Stolle (Aus) bt A Boetsch (Fr) 6-3 7-6; K Kucera (Slovak) bt M Lee (GB) 6-1 6-1; B Black (Zim) bt T Woodbridge (Aus) 6-2 2-6 6-2; G Stafford (SA) bt D Nestor (Can) 6-1 7-6; M Woodforde (Aus) bt J Stark (US) 6-3; 7-6; J Courier (US) bt J Van Herck (Bel) 6-3; 3-6; 6-3.

DIRECT LINE INSURANCE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT (Eastbourne): Singles first round: A Sidot (Fr) bt L Ahl (GB) 6-3 6-4; B Schultz-McCarthy (Neth) bt H Sukova (Cz Rep) 6-3 7-6; S Farina (It) bt L Raymond (US) 7-5 6-4; Y Basuki (Indon) bt E Likhovtseva (Rus) 6-3 6-0; K Po (US) bt K Studenikova (Slovak) 0-6 7-6 6-2; A Sugiyama (Japan) bt S-A Siddall (GB) 6-2 5-7 8-6; N Tauziat (Fr) bt M J Fernandez (US) 7-6 7-5.

HEINEKEN TROPHY ATP AND WTA GRASS-COURT TOURNAMENT (Den Bosch, Neth) Men's first round: A Radulescu (Ger) bt C Pioline (Fr) 6-3 3-6 7-5; R Reneberg (US) bt D Vacek (Cz Rep) 5-7 0-1 (ret); F Wibier (Neth) bt E Alvarez (Sp) 6-3 6-4; M Chang (US) bt F Santoro (Fr) 4-6 6-4 6-3; K Alami (Mor) bt T Muster (Aut) 6-4 6-2. Women's first round: S Appelmans (Bel) bt A Gersi (Cz Rep) 6-4 6-4; M Oremans (Neth) bt P Schnyder (Swit) 7-5 6-2; K Boogert (Neth) bt L Neiland (Lat) 4-2 (ret).

BIG BEAR CHAMPIONS MEN'S OVER-35 tournament (Columbus, Ohio): Semi-finals: J McEnroe (US) bt M Purcell (US) 7-5 4-6 11-9; J Kriek (US) bt J Lloyd (GB) 7-6 7-6.

WIMBLEDON DRAW

Men's singles

SEEDS IN CAPITALS

Holder: R Krajicek (Neth)

P SAMPRAS (US) v M Tillstrom (Swe); H Dreekmann (Neth) v P Fredriksson (Swe); D Sapsford (GB) v qualifier; B Black (Zim) v qualifier; H Holm (Swe) v A O'Brien (US); N Godwin (SA) v qualifier; M Rosset (Swit) v K Kucera (Slovak); M Filippini (Urug) v P KORDA (Cz Rep); M RIOS (Chile) v qualifier; D Van Scheppingen (Neth) v R Fromberg (Aus); O Stanoytchev (Bul) v O Gross (Ger); J Siemerink (Neth) v R Furlan (It); C Ruud (Nor) v T Haas (Ger); M Petchey (GB) v J Kroslak (Slovak); D Hrbaty (Slovak) v T Johansson (Swe); M Gorriz (Sp) v B BECKER (Ger); Y KAFELNIKOV (Rus) v J Marin (Sp); Qualifier v J Sanchez (Sp); N Kulti (Swe) v M Sinner (Ger); Qualifier v J Stoltenberg (Aus); Qualifier v J Bjorkman (Swe); A Volkov (Rus) v N Kiefer (Ger); S Sargsian (Arm) v J Van Herck (Bel); F Santoro (Fr) v A MEDVEDEV (Ukr); P RAFTER (Aus) v G Stafford (SA); Qualifier v J Knippschild (Ger); Qualifier v N Weal (GB); M Gustafsson (Swe) v V Spadea (US); A Voinea (Rom) v A Radulescu (Ger); M Martelli (It) v B Karbacher (Ger); S Schalken (Neth) v M Ondruska (SA); T Woodbridge (Aus) v M CHANG (SA); T MUSTER (Aut) v C Wilkinson (GB); M Woodforde (Aus) v L Paes (Ind); Qualifier v L Milligan (GB); N Marques (Port) v M Lee (GB); K Carlsen (Den) v E Alvarez (Sp); S Stolle (Aus) v C Woodruff (US); M Stich (Ger) v J Courier (US); J Gimelstob (US) v G KUERTEN (Bra); T HENMAN (GB) v D Nestor (Can); J Delgado (GB) v J Golmard (Fr); S Dosedel (Cz Rep) v qualifier; S Lareau (Can) v P Haarhuis (Neth); N Lapentti (Ec) v F Clavet (Sp); Qualifier v O Vacek (Cz Rep); A Pavel (Rom) v F Dewulf (Bel); M Craca (Ger) v R KRAJICEK (Neth); M PHILIPPOUSSIS (Aus) v G Rusedski (GB); Qualifier v J Stark (US); A Richardson (GB) v qualifier; J Viloca (Sp) v M Goellner (Ger); Qualifier v O Flach (US); G Raoux (Fr) v A Boetsch (Fr); H Arazi (Mor) v R Reneberg (US); A Agassi (US) v C MOYA (Sp); W FERREIRA (SA) v S Draper (Aus); J Tarango (SA) v qualifier; J Frana (Arg) v M Damm (Cz Rep); M Charpentier (Arg) v C Pioline (Fr); F Fetterlein (Den) v J Novak (Cz Rep); L Roux (Fr) v B Steven (NZ); M Norman (Swe) v qualifier; O Pescariu (Rom) v G IVANISEVIC (Croa).

Women's singles

SEEDS IN CAPITALS

Holder: S Graf (Ger)

M HINGIS (Swit) v qualifier; P Begerow (Ger) v O Barabanschikova (Bel); E Martincova (Cz Rep) v L Raymond (US); M Arendt (US) v P Langrova (Cz Rep); J Capriati (US) v A Dechaume-Balleret (Fr); S Appelmans (Bel) v R Simpson (Can); S Cacic (US) v A Frazier (US); S Farina (It) v B SCHULTZ-McCARTHY (Neth); R DRAGOMIR (Rom) v A Glass (Ger); A Ellwood (Aus) v qualifier; G Helgeson-Nielsen (US) v L Ahl (GB); M Maleeva (Bul) v J Pullin (GB); K Studenikova (Slovak) v qualifier; R Zrubakova (Cz Rep) v qualifier; O Chaldkova (Cz Rep) v S Kleinova (Cz Rep); T Jones (US) v L DAVENPORT (US); I MAJOLI (Croa) v N Diaz-Oliva (Bel); M Maruska (Aut) v A Gersi (Cz Rep); Qualifier v L Wild (US); F Perfetti (It) v M Sanchez-Lorenzo (Sp); G Fernandez (US) v M Oremans (Neth); N Dechy (Fr) v L Courtois (Bel); E Makarova (Rus) v T Panova (Rus); H Nagyova (Slovak) v I SPIRLEA (Rom), C Martinez (Sp) v K Habsudova (Slovak); Y Yoshida (Japan) v R Hiraki (Japan); H Sukova (Cz Rep) v S Siddall (GB); S Wang (Tai) v L McNeil (US); C Rubin (US) v A Kournikova (Rus); A Sidot (Fr) v B Rittner (Ger); J Kruger (SA) v S Deville (Bel); Qualifier v A HUBER (Ger); A COETZER (SA) v A Fusai (Fr); M Saeki (Japan) v P Hy-Boulais (Can); V Williams (US) v M Grzybowska (Pol); B Schett (Aut) v A Carlsson (Swe); A Sugiyama (Japan) v Y Basuki (Indon); M Tu (US) v I Gorrochategui (Arg); L Neiland (Lat) v N Kijimuta (Japan); K Boogert (Ned) v B PAULUS (Aut); M-J FERNANDEZ (US) v N Van Lottum (Fr); A Olsza (Pol) v L Nemeckova (Cz Rep); N Sawamatsu (Japan) v S Smith (GB); L Richterova (Cz Rep) v T Tanasugarn (Thai); N Endo (Japan) v G Leon-Garcia (Sp); C Torrens-Valero (Sp) v G Pizzichini (It); N Zvereva (Bela) v E Likhovtseva (Rus); W Probst (Ger) v J NOVOTNA (Cz Rep); A SANCHEZ VICARIO (Sp) v C Wood (GB); E Gagliardi (Swit) v C Cristea (Rom); F Labat (Arg) v R Grande (It); E Callens (Bel) v P Suarez (Arg); F Lubiani (It) v S Pitkowski (Fr); J Watanabe (US) v M Serna (Sp); V Ruano Pascual (Sp) v S Dopfer (Aut); D Van Roost (Bel) v M PIERCE (Fra); K PO (US) v K Guse (Aut); N Tauziat (Fr) v qualifier; L Woodroffe (GB) v P Schnyder (Swit); J Wiesner (Aut) v J Kandarr (Ger); C Morariu (US) v C Taylor (GB); Qualifier v S Testud (Fr); A Grossman (US) v K Brandi (US); R McQuillan (Aut) v M SELES (US).

Men's doubles

Holders: T Woodbridge (Aus) and M Woodforde (Aus)

Seedings only

1 T Woodbridge (Aus) and M Woodforde (Aus); 2 J Eltingh (Neth) and P Haarhuis (Neth); 3 Y Kafelnikov (Rus) and D Vacek (Cz Rep); 4 M Knowles (Bah) and D Nestor (Can); 5 S Lareau (Can) and A O'Brien (US); 6 E Ferreira (SA) and P Galbraith (US); 7 M Philippoussis (Aus) and P Rafter (Aus); 8 R Leach (US) and J Stark (US); 9 J Bjorkman (Swe) and N Kulti (Swe); 10 S Stolle (Aus) and C Suk (Cz Rep); 11 N Broad (GB) and P Norval (SA); 12 D Johnson (US) and F Montana (SA); 13 M Damm (Cz Rep) and P Vizner (Cz Rep); 14 L Pimek (Bel) and B Talbot (SA); 15 G Connell (Can) and S Davis (US); 16 J Eagle (Aus) and A Florent (Aus).

Women's doubles

Holders: M Hingis (Swit) and H Sukova (Cz Rep)

Seedings only

1 G Fernandez (US) and N Zvereva (Bela); 2 M Hingis (Swit) and A Sanchez Vicario (Sp); 3 L Davenport (US) and J Novotna (Cz Rep); 4 L Neiland (Lat) and H Sukova (Cz Rep); 5 M J Fernandez (US) and L Raymond (US); 6 N J Arendt (US) and M Bollegraf (Neth); 7 C Martinez (Sp) and P Tarabini (Arg); 8 Y Basuki (Indon) and C M Vis (Neth); 9 K Adams (US) and L McNeil (US); 10 N Tauziat (Fr) and L Wild (US); 11 N Kijimuta (Japan) and N Miyagi (Japan); 12 S Appelmans (Bel) and M Oremans (Neth); 13 A Fusai (Fr) and R Grande (It); 14 A Frazier (US) and K Po (US); 15 C Rubin (US) and B Schultz-McCarthy (Neth); 16 K Boogert (Neth) and I Spirlea (Rom).

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION FIXTURES

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE Premier Division: Sat 2 Aug: Aberdeen v Kilmarnock; Dunfermline v Motherwell; St Johnstone v Dundee Utd. **Sun 3 Aug:** Hibernian v Celtic. **Mon 4 Aug:** Rangers v Hearts. **Sat 16 Aug:** Celtic v Dunfermline; Hearts v Aberdeen; Kilmarnock v Rangers; Motherwell v St Johnstone. **Sun 17 Aug:** Dundee Utd v Hibernian. **Sat 23 Aug:** Aberdeen v Motherwell; Dunfermline v Hearts; Hibernian v Kilmarnock; Rangers v Dundee Utd; St Johnstone v Celtic. **Sat 30 Aug:** Aberdeen v Dundee Utd; Dunfermline v St Johnstone; Hearts v Hibernian. **Mon 1 Sept:** Celtic v Rangers; Kilmarnock v Motherwell. **Sat 13 Sept:** Dundee Utd v Kilmarnock; Hibernian v Dunfermline; Motherwell v Celtic; Rangers v Aberdeen; St Johnstone v Hearts. **Sat 20 Sept:** Celtic v Aberdeen; Dunfermline v Kilmarnock; Hearts v Dundee Utd; Motherwell v Hibernian; St Johnstone v Rangers. **Sat 27 Sept:** Aberdeen v Dunfermline; Dundee Utd v Celtic; Hibernian v St Johnstone; Kilmarnock v Hearts; Rangers v Motherwell. **Sat 4 Oct:** Celtic v Kilmarnock; Dunfermline v Dundee Utd; Hibernian v Rangers; Motherwell v Hearts; St Johnstone v Aberdeen. **Sat 18 Oct:** Aberdeen v Hibernian; Dundee Utd v Motherwell; Hearts v Celtic; Kilmarnock v St Johnstone; Rangers v Dunfermline. **Sat 25 Oct:** Celtic v St Johnstone; Dundee Utd v Rangers; Hearts v Dunfermline; Kilmarnock v Hibernian; Motherwell v Aberdeen. **Sat 1 Nov:** Aberdeen v Hearts; Dunfermline v Celtic; Hibernian v Dundee Utd; Rangers v Kilmarnock; St Johnstone v Motherwell. **Sat 8 Nov:** Hibernian v Hearts; Motherwell v Kilmarnock; Rangers v Celtic; St Johnstone v Dunfermline. **Sun 9 Nov:** Dundee Utd v Aberdeen. **Sat 15 Nov:** Aberdeen v Rangers; Celtic v Motherwell; Dunfermline v Hibernian; Hearts v St Johnstone; Kilmarnock v Dundee Utd. **Sat 22 Nov:** Celtic v Dundee Utd; Dunfermline v Aberdeen; Hearts v Kilmarnock; Motherwell v Rangers; St Johnstone v Hibernian. **Sat 29 Nov:** Aberdeen v Celtic; Dundee Utd v Hearts; Hibernian v Motherwell; Kilmarnock v Dunfermline; Rangers v St Johnstone. **Sat 6 Dec:** Aberdeen v St Johnstone; Dundee Utd v Dunfermline; Hearts v Motherwell; Kilmarnock v Celtic. **Sun 7 Dec:** Rangers v Hibernian. **Sat 13 Dec:** Celtic v Hearts; Dunfermline v Rangers; Hibernian v Aberdeen; Motherwell v Dundee Utd; St Johnstone v Kilmarnock. **Sat 20 Dec:** Celtic v Hibernian; Dundee Utd v St Johnstone; Hearts v Rangers; Kilmarnock v Aberdeen; Motherwell v Dunfermline. **Sat 27 Dec:** Aberdeen v Motherwell; Dunfermline v Hearts; Hibernian v Kilmarnock; Rangers v Dundee Utd; St Johnstone v Celtic. **Thu 1 Jan:** Hearts v Hibernian. **Fri 2 Jan:** Celtic v Rangers. **Sat 3 Jan:** Aberdeen v Dundee Utd; Dunfermline v St Johnstone; Kilmarnock v Motherwell. **Sat 10 Jan:** Dundee Utd v Kilmarnock; Hibernian v Dunfermline; Motherwell v Celtic; Rangers v Aberdeen; St Johnstone v Hearts. **Sat 17 Jan:** Aberdeen v Dunfermline; Dundee Utd v Celtic; Hibernian v St Johnstone; Kilmarnock v Hearts; Rangers v Motherwell. **Sat 31 Jan:** Celtic v Aberdeen; Dunfermline v Kilmarnock; Hearts v Dundee Utd; Motherwell v Hibernian; St Johnstone v Rangers. **Sat 7 Feb:** Aberdeen v Hibernian; Dundee Utd v Motherwell; Hearts v Celtic; Kilmarnock v St Johnstone; Rangers v Dunfermline. **Sat 21 Feb:** Celtic v Kilmarnock; Dunfermline v Dundee Utd; Hibernian v Rangers; Motherwell v Hearts; St Johnstone v Aberdeen. **Tue 24 Feb:** Dundee Utd v Hibernian; Kilmarnock v Rangers. **Wed 25 Feb:** Celtic v Dunfermline; Hearts v Aberdeen; Motherwell v St Johnstone. **Sat 28 Feb:** Aberdeen v Kilmarnock; Dunfermline v Motherwell; Hibernian v Celtic; Rangers v Hearts; St Johnstone v Dundee Utd. **Sat 14 Mar:** Celtic v Dundee Utd; Dunfermline v Aberdeen; Hearts v Kilmarnock; Motherwell v Rangers; St Johnstone v Hibernian. **Sat 21 Mar:** Aberdeen v Celtic; Dundee Utd v Hearts; Hibernian v Motherwell; Kilmarnock v Dunfermline; Rangers v St Johnstone. **Sat 28 Mar:** Celtic v Hearts; Dunfermline v Rangers; Hibernian v Aberdeen; Motherwell v Dundee Utd; St Johnstone v Kilmarnock. **Sat 4 Apr:** Aberdeen v St Johnstone; Dundee Utd v Dunfermline; Hearts v Motherwell; Kilmarnock v Celtic; Rangers v Hibernian. **Sat 11 Apr:** Dundee Utd v Aberdeen; Hibernian v Hearts; Motherwell v Kilmarnock; St Johnstone v Dunfermline. **Sun 12 Apr:** Rangers v Celtic. **Sat 18 Apr:** Aberdeen v Rangers; Celtic v Motherwell; Dunfermline v Hibernian; Hearts v St Johnstone; Kilmarnock v Dundee Utd. **Sat 25 Apr:** Celtic v Hibernian; Dundee Utd v St Johnstone; Hearts v Rangers; Kilmarnock v Aberdeen; Motherwell v Dunfermline. **Sat 2 May:** Aberdeen v Hearts; Dunfermline v Celtic; Hibernian v Dundee Utd; Rangers v Kilmarnock; St Johnstone v Motherwell. **Sat 9 May:** Celtic v St Johnstone; Dundee Utd v Rangers; Hearts v Dunfermline; Kilmarnock v Hibernian; Motherwell v Aberdeen.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Cricket

11.0 unless stated

BRITANNIC ASSURANCE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP (First day of four): Derby: Derbyshire v Sussex. **Darlington:** Durham v Kent. **Bristol:** Gloucestershire v Middlesex. **Liverpool:** Lancashire v Glamorgan. **Northampton:** Northamptonshire v Hampshire. **Trent Bridge:** Nottinghamshire v Yorkshire. **Bath:** Somerset v Leicestershire. **Worcester:** Worcestershire v Surrey.

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (First day of three unless stated): Swansea: Glamorgan v Gloucestershire. **Canterbury:** Kent v Derbyshire. **Middleton:** Lancashire v Northamptonshire. **Hinckley:** Leicestershire v Surrey. **Taunton:** Somerset v Durham. **Horsham:** Sussex v Warwickshire. **Middlesbrough:** Yorkshire v Worcestershire. **Coggeshall (Second day of four):** Essex v Middlesex.

MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP (First day of two unless stated): Saffron Walden: Cambridgeshire v Norfolk. **Newport:** Shropshire v Cornwall. **St Albans (second day):** Hertfordshire v Northumberland.

Football

WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP Group F (Johor Bahru, Malaysia): Ivory Coast v England.

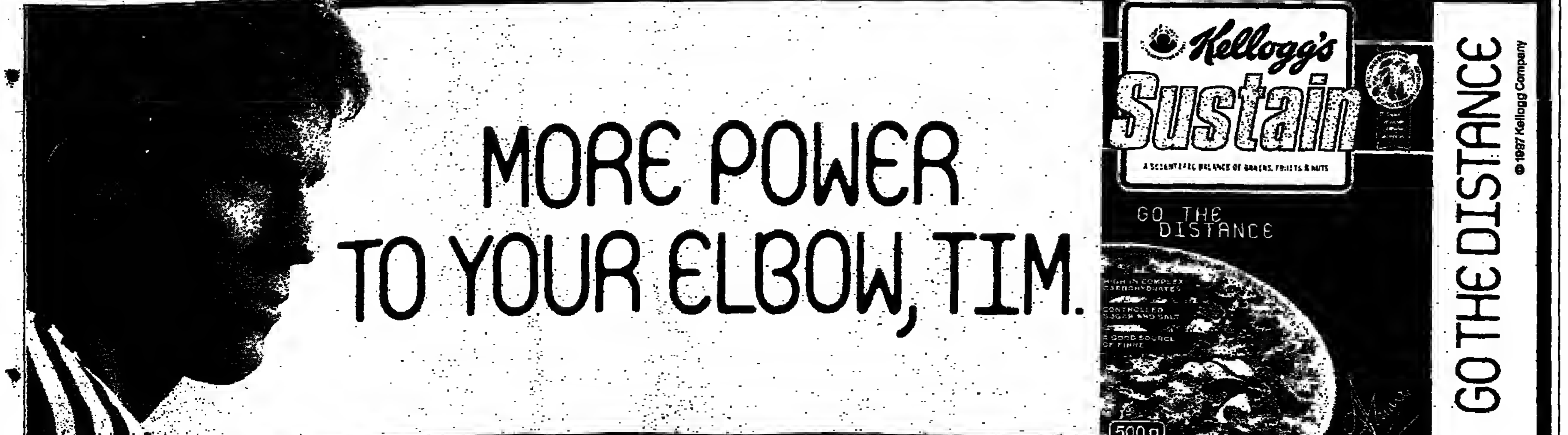
Speedway

ELITE LEAGUE: Poole v King's Lynn (7.30).

PREMIER LEAGUE: Hull v Berwick (7.30). **Four Team Championship qualifying round:** Long Eaton v Sheffield v Stoke v Skegness (7.45).

Other sports

TENNIS: Wimbledon qualifying (Roehampton); Nottingham Men's Open (Nottingham); Direct Line International Women's Championships (Eastbourne); Mulberry Classic (Hurlingham).



Gladiatorial spirit
Chris Rawlinson's rise from athletics obscurity, page 30

sport

Devon delight
Rejuvenated England bowler talks to Ian Stafford, page 30

Overmars over here as Wenger lands Dutch winger

Football
NICK DUXBURY

Arsène Wenger rolled his shopping trolley in to Highbury yesterday and tipped out £8.75m worth of goodies – with the promise of more to come before the season starts.

The Arsenal manager's rummaging among the shelves of football's continental hypermarket procured the Dutch winger Marc Overmars and the Portuguese striker Luis Boa Morte, whose name translates as "good death", or possibly good night if you happen to be 33-year-old Ian Wright.

Overmars, the 24-year-old international with three Dutch championships and a European Cup winner's medal already in his bootbag, cost £7m at the Ajax checkout, while the 19-year-old Boa Morte a £1.75m bargain from Sporting Lisbon.

Wenger, who signed the French defenders Emmanuel Petit and Gilles Grimandi earlier this month, has now spent more than £14m but shows no signs of putting away the debit card. Indeed, the Gunners' shop will have to start stocking a shirt bearing the name Alberto Mendez-Rodriguez – a 22-year-old midfielder from the German non-League side FC Feucht.

"It's not all over yet," Wenger said. "I might still bring in one, or a maximum two, players before the start of the season. I need to bring in younger players. We have the best players in the country in the 28 to 35 age group, but between 20 and 28 they are all at Manchester United, Newcastle or Liverpool."

Overmars' decision to leave a "beautiful club" for a five-year contract at Highbury was influenced by Dennis Bergkamp. "I have heard only good things about Arsenal from Dennis," he said. "I like what I have seen of the Premiership. I can see there might be a little more freedom to use my speed."

Now fully recovered from a cruciate ligament injury sustained in December 1995, Overmars added: "There are no problems anymore. I just had to be very strong. It takes time, but you must not be afraid."

The 36-year-old Peter Beardsley has been offered the chance to extend his first-team career at Bolton Wanderers. Beardsley met the Bolton manager, Colin Todd, yesterday after a fee of around £250,000 had been agreed with Newcastle United.

Tomas Brolin has been ordered to report back at Leeds United by Friday after a £2m move to Parma, following a lengthy loan spell, fell through. The 27-year-old Swede, who cost Leeds a club-record £4.5m from Parma in 1995, has a year to run on his contract.

Brighton supporters who have been checking out the hostelries around Gillingham, have been wasting their time. Next season's pre-match pints now look like being quaffed in south-east London, following the sudden decision to groundshare with Millwall. The New Den is seen as being better placed than the Priestfield Stadium, with journey times for supporters halved.

Only last week, Brighton told the Football League that the Gillingham link-up was going ahead in order to ensure the club's status for the League's annual meeting. Brighton, who will still have to pay Gillingham £300,000, have until Friday to find a £500,000 bond to guarantee their future as a League club.

The Southampton midfielder Robbie Slater scored his first goal for Australia as Terry Venables' side beat the Solomon Islands 6-2 in Sydney to win their World Cup qualifying group and earn a play-off for the Oceania title against either New Zealand or Fiji.

The Scottish League will open on Saturday 2 August with only three matches in the Premier Division. Sky Sports muscled in to [illegible] Hibernian's home match against [illegible] their Sunday match [illegible] Rangers against Hearts [illegible] the Monday night TV slot.

Scottish Premier Division fixtures, page 31

Duel with the 'Scud' first up for Rusedski

Tennis
JOHN ROBERTS

The Wimbledon groundstaff devote all that tender, loving care to manicuring the lawns, and what happens? The world's biggest servers, Mark Philippoussis and Greg Rusedski, are sent out to launch missiles at each other in the opening round.

"Scud" Philippoussis's record deliveries have been timed at 142 mph, while Britain's Rusedski is no slouch at 139 mph. Fortunately there is still time for the BBC to arrange to lighten the show with captions like the ones in the old Batman series... "POW!", "BAM!", "HOLY ACES!". The script will take care of itself. The outcome of the contest will depend on which Batman returns.

It will be bad luck for one of them to have been drawn to meet at the start of the tournament. The BBC, however, will no doubt have opportunities to put the captions to further use throughout the fortnight, particularly since Philippoussis, seeded No 7, is projected to play Goran Ivanisevic, the No 2 seed, in the quarter-finals.

Witnesses to the bombardment when the 20-year-old overpowered Ivanisevic to win the Stella Artois title at Queen's Club last Sunday will know what to expect. Bear in mind, though, that if they do meet at the All England Club the pyrotechnics will be scheduled to continue for at least three sets.

Rusedski, who came within the width of the net-cord tape of defeating Ivanisevic in the semi-finals at Queen's before losing in a tie-break, 20-18, was certainly not despondent after learning that he had drawn Philippoussis. "There are a lot of matches you would have chosen before that one," he said. "It could have been an easier draw, but it works both ways. It's tough for him as well."

He added: "If you're going to do well at Wimbledon, you have to play these guys sometime. It's probably better to play them on the first day, when the court is lusher."

Last year, Rusedski defeated Canada's Daniel Nestor in the first round, so he might be able to pass on a few tips to Tim Henman, the British No 1, who has drawn Nestor on this occasion.

Henman, the No 14 seed, is in Ivanisevic's half of the draw and is projected to meet Richard Krajicek, the defending champion, in the fourth round. Britain's Jamie Delgado is a possible second-round opponent for Henman, who 12 months ago became the nation's first man to reach the last eight since Roger Taylor in 1973. Thomas Muster or Gustavo Kuerten, the French Open champion, are the other seeds in Henman's quarter. Muster opens against Britain's Chris Wilkinson.

As cruel draws go, the first-round match between Germany's Michael Stich, the 1991 champion, and Jim Courier, the runner-up in 1993, takes some beating. Whatever Stich achieves this time, he intends to bid *auf wiedersehen* to the championships.

If Andre Agassi decides to make an appearance he will play Spain's Carlos Moya, a finalist at the Australian Open.

Pete Sampras, who might well be facing Boris Becker in the quarters, opens against Michael Tillstrom, who brought his fellow Swede Stefan Edberg's Wimbledon career to a close in the second round last year.

Michael Chang, No 2 in the world but demoted to fifth seed, will do well to make it to a possible fourth-round match against Australia's Pat Rafter. Indeed, Chang might have difficulty advancing beyond a first round match against another Aussie, Todd Woodbridge.

Martina Hingis, the women's world No 1, opens against a qualifier and is projected to meet the big-serving Brenda Schultz-McCarthy in the fourth round and the powerful Lindsay Davenport in the quarters.

Iva Majoli, who defeated Hingis in the French Open final, could play the 16-year-old Swiss in the semi-finals here. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Mary Pierce are drawn to meet in the fourth round. In the opening round, the Spaniard plays Britain's Clare Wood, and Pierce must account for Belgium's Dominique Van Roost, who made such a good impression at the Australian Open.

Jana Novotna, the No 3 seed, appears nicely placed to make progress in Monica Seles's half. Seles, seeded to play Hingis in the final, has an opening match against Australia's Rachel McQuillan.

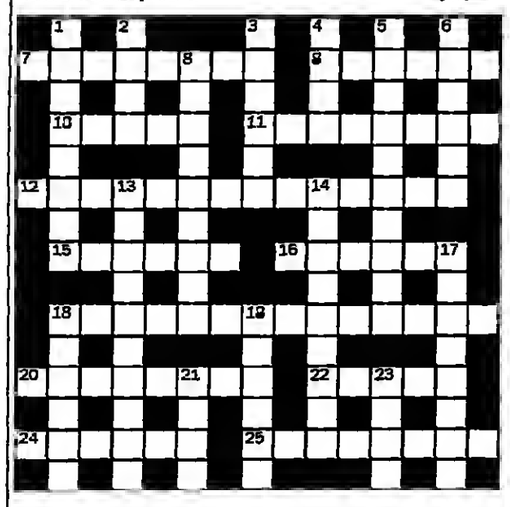
As to the other teenagers, Anna Kournikova meets Chanda Rubin, the marathon woman, and Venus Williams is a possible third-round opponent for Amanda Coetzer, who capitalised on Steffi Graf's errors in Paris.

Wimbledon draw, page 31

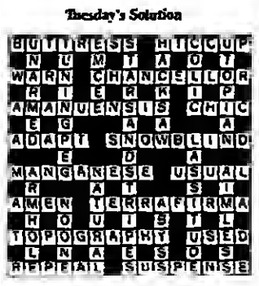
Saddle soar: Frankie Dettori, who missed last year's meeting through injury, celebrates with his trademark flying dismount after winning the feature race at Royal Ascot yesterday, the St James's Palace Stakes, on Sheikh Mohammed's Starborough Photograph: Robert Hallam

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No 3328. Wednesday 18 June — By Aquila



Tuesday's Solution



ACROSS
1 Child-minder, on the way, carries this sticky confection (8)
9 Supports for barrels of cold German wines (6)
10 Type of manor being demolished (5)
11 Excessively confident of hurdling (8)
12 One's men healthy turning out here in rows? (6-2-6)
15 Short return trip of kind that is to follow (6)
16 Set free to be off (6)
18 Remarkable person to leave earth with unspecified amount (5,9)
20 Laxity is commonplace when head is absent (8)
22 Drive out from Middlesex, pell-mell (5)
24 Lay down ring-road in a new style (6)
25 Percentage cut? (8)

DOWN
1 Some kids at school write note in margins (8)
2 Endless depression in squalid living accommodation (4)
3 Well, French wine will slow up a horse (6)
4 New cure leaves one yellowish-grey (4)
5 Arthur come out for a long walk? (10)
6 Lizards with small flaws (6)
8 P-prudent, careful with small sums (5,4)
13 Langdale's first vicar laid off for polishing off grub (10)
14 Half an hour to idle, having no home to go to (9)
17 Tempting with bait, fishing at mouth of Dee (8)
18 Prey runs into wharf (6)
19 Cook too long – past the time specified, say Americans (6)
21 Makes, we hear, of large vases (4)
23 Kitty's game? (4)

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Bateman and Bentley stake strong claims for Test call

Rugby Union
CHRIS HEWETT reports from Wellington

Emerging Springboks	22
British Isles	51

The Lions' proud all for one and one for all approach to beating the Springboks may still be official policy, but their equally democratic strategy of avoiding a split between the Test XV and the midweek journeymen no longer stacks up. It seems harsh to say so, for the tourists were never in much danger of meeting their Waterloo in Wellington yesterday, but most of the participants had such a clear stamp of the dirt-tracker about them that motorcycle scrambling might now be an option.

There were notable exceptions. Allan Bateman, competing manfully but unenviably against Jeremy Guscott for a place in the only side that now matters – the one to play South Africa in Cape Town on Saturday – offered as complete an interpretation of the outside centre's art as is likely to be seen on this trip and he may yet feature prominently in the series. Outside him, John Bentley made a significant pitch for a wing place this weekend with a performance full of muscle, passion and character.

But those two and, just conceivably, Jeremy Davidson and Jason Leonard aside, it was difficult to imagine too many other names featuring in last night's all-important selection debate. There was energy from Neil Back, brains from Rob Wainwright, clever hands from Tony Diprose on his first Lions' performance, pace from Mike Catt and a hat-trick of tries for Nick Beal on the left-wing, but the identities of the genuine Test contenders could be scribbled on the back of a Penny Black.

The claims of the hitherto feared England front row were almost certainly sacrificed on the fast-retreating altar of another dodgy scrummaging performance, although the selectors may just fancy Leonard's vast experience when push comes to shove with the Boks. Had it not been for the sheer top-of-the-ground speed generated by Catt and those outside him, the Lions' frailties up front might have been exposed by Dale Santon's physical pack of mix and match Emergers.

Indeed, the South Africans were within a point at the break, the accomplished Warren Brosnihan and the classically equipped Marius Goosen scoring tries to remove the sting from Graham Rowntree's early rumble to the corner. That score was instigated by Bateman and delicately massaged into existence by Wainwright and, of all people, Mark Regan, who delivered the sweetest of passes going left.

Tim Stimpson's magnificent goalkicking was the difference at that point: somehow, Newcastle's occasional marksman once again kept pace with Neil Jenkins, his great rival for the No 15 shirt in the Tests by hanging over nine from 12 for 26 points. Unfortunately for him, his general handiwork at full-back lacked organisation and, with missed tackles creeping in both in close and out wide, the Lions were far more vulnerable at the interval than they need have been.

"We defended pretty poorly for a 25-minute spell and you can't afford to do that when there is such good rugby being played by your opponents," Ian McGeechan, the Lions' coach, said. "When we stopped working we looked bloody awful, but I take my hat off to these players for their attitude and their total belief in each other. There were good things as well, especially in the second half."

Bentley, such a force of nature on this tour, started the good things rolling with another of his lung-busters from the backwoods of his own half. He crossed from right to left, bursting tackles asunder at will, to put Beal in under the posts and when the Northampton wing claimed a second on 56 minutes following some visionary stuff from Will Greenwood and the ubiquitous Back, the visitors were in clear blue water.

Paul Treu's 63rd-minute strike, created by Goosen's slide-rule grubber to the Lions' line, raised the Bokke hopes momentarily but last-quarter tries for Stimpson, Beal and Catt spiked the home guns for good. Stimpson's was the pick. Back combining cleverly with both wings to open up the initial attacking position. Regan setting the important ruck wide on the left and Catt hitting his full-back with a cut-out pass that might have been measured by the Ordnance Survey.

"I still think that our selection meeting will be longer rather than shorter," McGeechan said last night, clearly meaning every word. But when the white smoke emerges from the deliberations, many of those who sweated blood for the cause yesterday will be disappointed.

Emerging Springboks: Tries Brosnihan, Goosen, Treu. **Conversions** Smith, Montgomery. **Penalty** Smith. **Lions: Tries** Beal 3, Rowntree, Stimpson. **Con: Conversions** Stimpson 6; **Penalties** Stimpson 3.

EMERGING SPRINGBOKS: M J Smith (Free State); **D Kayser** (Eastern Province), **P Montgomery** (Western Province), **M Hendricks** (Boland), **P Treu** (South West District); **L van Rensburg** (Gauteng), **J Adlam** (North West); **R Kempson** (Natal), **D Santon** (Boland, capt), **N du Toit** (Boland), **R Oppermann** (Free State), **B Ele** (Free State), **W Brosnihan** (Gauteng), **J Coetzee** (Free State), **P Smit** (Griqualand West). **Replacements: K Myburgh** (Free State) for Adlam, 10; **M Goosen** (Free State) for van Rensburg, 20; **K Malotana** (Border) for Smith, 60; **L Campher** (Northern Transvaal) for Kempson, 64; **J Brooks** (Northern Transvaal) for Santon, 68; **T Arendse** (Western Province) for Brosnihan, 71.

BRITISH ISLES: T Stimpson (Newcastle and England); **J Bentley** (Newcastle and England), **A Bateman** (Richmond and Wales), **M Greenwood** (Leicester), **N Beal** (Northampton and England), **M Catt** (Bath and England), **A Healey** (Leicester and England); **G Rowntree** (Leicester and England), **M Regan** (Bristol and England), **J Leonard** (Harlequins and England, capt), **N Redman** (Bath and England), **J Davidson** (London Irish and England), **R Wainwright** (Watsonians and Scotland), **A Diprose** (Saracens and England), **N Back** (Leicester and England).

Referee: I Rogers (Natal).

Joiner's happy return, page 30

No job at Lord's for Hollioake

Cricket
DAVID LLEWELLYN

There were ins and outs for England and Australia before a ball had even been bowled in anger in the second Test, which begins at Lord's tomorrow. The England management decided to do without the services of Adam Hollioake for the second match in succession. On this occasion, though, rather than hang on to him for 12th man duties and therefore rob his county of of him, they have allowed the Surrey captain to join his team mates at Worcester in time for today's County Championship match.

The Middlesex left-arm spinner Phil Tufnell has been retained – a reversal of roles for Hollioake and Tufnell from the first Test – to give England the option of playing a second spinner in tandem with Robert Croft, but all the signs are that they would prefer to keep an unchanged team.

Australia's record in Tests against England at headquarters this century is staggering. They have lost just once, in 1934. Yesterday they announced that Paul Reiffel would be playing in place of the injured pace bowler Jason Gillespie, who is recovering from a hamstring strain.

Australia's coach, Geoff Marsh, said: "Paul Reiffel has bowled well. He will play in the Test and, with his experience, it will be a bonus."